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A History of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

1965 – 2013

Compiled by

Barbara Jean McCreary Irvin

Chapter Historian

Hancock County Library System
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Theta Zeta Omega Chapter

Ocean Springs, MS

Timeless Service in the Sands of the Mississippi Gulf Coast

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This first edition of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter's history reflects the compilations and examinations of 45 years of records preserved by members of the chapter. This edition includes reflections from various members of the chapter of the experiences they have had while serving in the chapter on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

A brief history of the Mississippi Gulf Coast was obtained through research at the Biloxi Harrison County Library by Chapter members, Wattine Hannah and Norma Graham. A special thanks is made to Sorors Hannah and Graham.

The Chapter's history committee met on several occasions and helped to organize and pull together the information needed to make this history book a reality. Members of the committee are Margaret Bush, Norma Graham, Patricia Hall, Wattine Hannah, Theresa Haynes, Glenda Marshall, Catherine Mason, Viria May, Edith McCovery, Avonne Polk, and Dr. Barbara Thomas. Thanks to the history committee for all of their contributions and support. Also, a special shout out is made to Katie Criddell, Alchar Jackson, Edwina Roland, Carolyn Rushing, and Ja'Leasa Walden who helped to research and prepare selected input for this book.

A special thanks to the chapter president, Soror Schermonique Taylor for all of her help and support. With her help, this book has become a reality. Also, special thanks are extended to all the members of the chapter who provided input to make this book a reality. Thanks to all the members of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter for their help and support, especially in providing the member profiles which are an essential part of this book.

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We are also indebted to Soror Inez DeShields and Dr. Barbara Thomas, who served as editors for this edition. These sorors were instrumental in helping to make this book a grand edition. Thank you, Soror DeShields and Dr. Thomas.

--Barbara J. Irvin, Chapter Historian (2013-2014)

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AKA International Historical Perspective for Timeless Histories

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Legacy of Sisterhood and Timeless Service

Confined to what she called "a small circumscribed life" in the segregated and male-dominated milieu that characterized the early 1900s, Howard University co-ed Ethel Hedgeman dreamed of creating a support network for women with like minds coming together for mutual uplift, and coalescing their talents and strengths for the benefit of others. In 1908, her vision crystallized as Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first Negro Greek-letter sorority. Five years later (1913), lead incorporator Nellie Quander ensured Alpha Kappa Alpha's perpetuity through incorporation in the District of Columbia.

Together with eight other coeds at the mecca for Negro education, Hedgeman crafted a design that not only fostered interaction, stimulation, and ethical growth among members; but also provided hope for the masses. From the core group of nine at Howard, AKA has grown into a force of more than 265,000 collegiate members and alumnae, constituting 972 chapters in 42 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Germany, South Korea, Japan, Liberia, Canada and South Africa.

Because they believed that Negro college women represented "the highest—more education, more enlightenment, and more of almost everything that the great mass of Negroes never had— Hedgeman and her cohorts worked to honor what she called "an everlasting debt to raise them (Negroes) up and to make them better." For more than a century, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sisterhood has fulfilled that obligation by becoming an indomitable force for good in their communities, state, nation, and the world.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha program today still reflects the communal consciousness steeped in the AKA tradition and embodied in AKA's credo, "To be supreme in service to all mankind." Cultural awareness and social advocacy marked Alpha Kappa Alpha's infancy, but within one year (1914) of acquiring corporate status, AKA had also made its mark on education, establishing a scholarship award. The programming was a prelude to the thousands of pioneering and enduring initiatives that eventually defined the Alpha Kappa Alpha brand.

Through the years, Alpha Kappa Alpha has used the Sisterhood as a grand lever to raise the status of African-Americans, particularly girls and women. AKA has enriched minds and encouraged life-long learning; provided aid for the poor, the sick, and underserved; initiated social action to advance human and civil rights; worked collaboratively with other

groups to maximize outreach on progressive endeavors; and continually produced leaders to continue its credo of service.

Guided by twenty-eight international presidents from Nellie M. Quander (1913-1919) to Carolyn House Stewart (2010-2014), with reinforcement from a professional headquarters staff since 1949; AKA's corps of volunteers has instituted groundbreaking social action initiatives and social service programs that have timelessly transformed communities for the better— continually emitting progress in cities, states, the nation, and the world.

Signal Program Initiatives

2000s—Launched Emerging Young Leaders, a bold move to prepare 10,000 girls in grades 6-8 to excel as young leaders equipped to respond to the challenges of the 21st century; initiated homage for civil rights milestones by honoring the Little Rock Nine's 1957 desegregation of Central High (Little Rock, AR) following the Supreme Court's 1954 decision declaring segregated schools unconstitutional; donated $1 million to Howard University to fund scholarships and preserve Black culture (2008); strengthened the reading skills of 16,000 children through a $1.5 million after school demonstration project in low-performing, economically deprived, inner city schools (2002); and improved the quality of life for people of African descent through continuation of aid to African countries.

1990s—Built 10 schools in South Africa (1998); added the largest number of minorities to the National Bone Marrow Registry (1996); Became first civilian organization to create memorial to World War II unsung hero Dorie Miller (1991).

1980s—Adopted more than 27 African villages, earning Africare's 1986 Distinguished Service Award; encouraged awareness of and participation in the nation's affairs, registering more than 350,000 new voters; and established the Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation (1981), a multi-million dollar entity that annually awards more than $100,000 in scholarships, grants, and fellowships.

1970s— Was only sorority to be named an inaugural member of Operation Big Vote (1979); completed pledge of one-half million to the United Negro College Fund (1976); and purchased Dr. Martin Luther King's boyhood home for the MLK Center for Social Change (1972).

1960s—Sponsored inaugural Domestic Travel Tour, a one-week cultural excursion for 30 high school students (1969); launched a "Heritage Series" on African-American achievers (1965); and emerged as the first women's group to win a grant to operate a federal job corps center (1965), preparing youth 16-21 to function in a highly competitive economy.

1950s—Promoted investing in Black businesses by depositing initial $38,000 for AKA Investment Fund with the first and only Negro firm on Wall Street (1958). Spurred Sickle Cell Disease research and education with grants to Howard Hospital and publication of The Sickle Cell Story (1958).

1940s—Invited other Greek-letter organizations to come together to establish the American Council on Human Rights to empower racial uplift and economic development (1948); Acquired observer status from the United Nations (1946); and challenged the absence of people of color from pictorial images used by the government to portray Americans (1944).

1930s—Became first organization to take out NAACP life membership (1939); Created nation's first Congressional lobby that impacted legislation on issues ranging from decent living conditions and jobs to lynching (1938); and established the nation's first mobile health clinic, providing relief to 15,000 Negroes plagued by famine and disease in the Mississippi Delta (1935).

1920s—Worked to dispel notions that Negroes were unfit for certain professions, and guided Negroes in avoiding career mistakes (1923); pushed anti-lynching legislation (1921).

1900s—Promoted Negro culture and encouraged social action through presentation of Negro artists and social justice advocates, including elocutionist Nathaniel Guy, Hull House founder Jane Addams, and U. S. Congressman Martin Madden (1908-1915). Established the first organizational scholarship at Howard University (1914).

—Earnestine Green McNealey, Ph.D., AKA Historian

August 2013

South Eastern Region's Historical Perspective for Timeless Histories

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED
South Eastern Region

A Legacy of Sisterhood and Timeless Service

The expansion of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in the 1920s created a need for close supervision of chapters. The Boule, the governing body, responded by grouping chapters into regions and providing for the election of regional directors. Emerging from the Southern Region, which included the states of Texas, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas in 1925, the South Eastern Region now includes the states of Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi, often dubbed the ATM by the 24th regional director.

With an active membership of almost six thousand in 104 chapters (57 graduate and 47 undergraduate), the South Eastern Region ranks fifth among the ten Alpha Kappa Alpha regions. To some extent, its rank was determined by a series of re-alignments, the largest of which was approved by the 1953 Boule and implemented at a joint conference with the South Atlantic Region. That joint conference was held April 15-18, 1954, on the campus of Alabama A&M College (now Alabama A&M University) at Normal, AL.

Although the 1925 Constitution provided for regional conferences in April of each year, "if possible," the South Eastern Region held its first regional conference in 1933 with Carolyn Blanton, the second Regional Director, presiding. Alpha Delta Omega, Pi, and Alpha Psi Chapters of Nashville, TN were the host chapters. Since then, there have been eighty-one additional regional conferences.

Ironically, the presence of Alpha Kappa Alpha at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) was initially delayed. The AKA Standards Committee's refusal to recommend the chartering of chapters on campuses without "A" ratings from national or regional agencies was a main reason for the delay. Another reason was the reluctance of HBCU administrators to permit the establishment of "secret societies" on their campuses. Pi, the region's oldest chapter, was chartered at Meharry Medical College in 1921. A mixed chapter comprised of undergraduates and graduates, it was moved to Fisk University in 1927, with the approval of the Boule and Fisk administrators. Early on, administrators had not allowed the chartering of fraternities and sororities at Fisk. Alpha Delta Omega was chartered for graduates at Nashville that same year. By the end of the twenties, only one additional undergraduate chapter—Chi at Talladega College (1924)–had been chartered in the region as we know it today. By 1930, three graduate chapters existed within the boundaries of the present South Eastern Region: Omicron Omega at Birmingham, AL (1924), Pi Omega at Chattanooga, TN (1925), and Alpha Pi Omega at Knoxville, TN (1929).

The South Eastern Region has contributed tremendously to the leadership of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Three Regional Directors advanced to the office of Supreme Basileus. Maude Brown

Porter, the seventh Supreme Basileus, served from 1931 to 1933. Called the catalyst for the Mississippi Health Project, she stressed the need for quality programs and advocated high scholastic achievement. Arnetta G. Wallace, fifth Regional Director, became the fourteenth Supreme Basileus in 1953 and served until 1958. She established the first international chapter (Liberia) and commissioned and presented the first official history of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Julia Brogdon Purnell completed her tenure as Regional Director in 1962 and served as Supreme Basileus from 1962 to 1966. She secured a $4 million contract from the U.S. Government to operate the Cleveland Job Corps Center and held the first International Undergraduate Leadership School.

Three Supreme Basilei were born in the South Eastern Region: Bobbie Beatrix Scott (1927-1929); Ida Jackson (1933 to 1936); and Eva Lois Evans (1994-1998). Scott, who worked for a National Headquarters and developed a plan to include undergraduates in directorate proceedings, was born in Vicksburg, MS. Jackson, known best as founder of the Mississippi Health Project, was also born in Vicksburg. She was responsible for expanding Alpha Kappa Alpha to the West Coast. Evans, 24th Supreme Basileus, was born in Memphis, TN. She served as First Supreme Anti-Basileus, Great Lakes Regional Director, and International Program Chairman before her elevation to AKA's highest office. PIMS (Partnership in Science and Mathematics) was her signature program.

AKA Founder Harriet Terry, who taught English at Alabama A&M College for 37 years, was a charter member of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter. Mayme Williams, fifth Regional Director, was elected First Supreme Anti-Basileus and consequently served as Chairman of the National Health Committee. Mary M. Chambers of Normal, AL was also elected First Supreme Anti-Basileus. She played a major role in securing the $4 million Job Corps award, wrote a series of how-to-books, served as International Program Chairman, and Undergraduate Program Advisor.

Four Executive Directors have had ties to the South Eastern Region: Carey Preston, a native of Columbus, MS and the longest serving Director (1949-1974); Earnestine Green McNealey (1980-1985); Emma Lily Henderson (1997-1998); and Cynthia Howell, recently appointed. McNealey currently lives in Tuscaloosa, AL and is affiliated with Eta Xi Omega Chapter. Henderson is a native of Birmingham, AL; Howell formerly resided in Tuskegee and Huntsville, AL, and she was affiliated with Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter.

As Chairman of the International Program Committee, Juanita Sims Doty was instrumental in securing a $1.5 million grant for an after-school reading program, the Ivy Reading AKAdemy. Countless other South Eastern members have chaired committees and served unstintingly at all levels of the sorority.

South Eastern chapters have always embraced Alpha Kappa Alpha programs. Geographic boundaries have shifted as the region evolved, but the mission remains the same: "to be of service to all mankind." From Maude Brown Porter, the first Regional Director, to Adrienne P-K Washington, the 24th, visionary, creative leaders have given timeless service and inspired

other Alpha Kappa Alpha women to serve unselfishly. From early cultural and social involvement to the current Emerging Young Leaders program (EYL), the "Sophisticated Sorors of the South Eastern Region" have improved their communities by designing and employing effective service programs and initiatives.

Timeless Programs and Initiatives

1920s—Observed Founders' Day; developed social and cultural programs.

1930s—Was the site of the Mississippi Health Project; conducted social and cultural programs.

1940s—Introduced Fashionetta® to Alpha Kappa Alpha as a creative fundraiser; sponsored cultural programs; engaged in political advocacy.

1950s—Operated the Tuskegee Gift Shop, coordinated by Beta Xi Omega Chapter and funded in collaboration with other chapters to provide free gift shopping for veterans at the VA Hospital at Tuskegee, AL; sponsored health projects.

1960s—Participated in the Civil Rights Movement; conducted tutorial programs; developed local Black heritage programs.

1970s—Sponsored reading programs; presented local Black History programs; recruited and mentored participants for the AKA Domestic Travel Tour, a one-week cultural excursion; distributed the AKA Heritage Series, which showcases African American women in professional careers; gave awards for most creative use of the Series.

1980s—Adopted more than 20 HBCUs and presented checks to college and university presidents at the sorority's 1990 Boule; adopted African villages to address drought, starvation and their attendant problems through Africare; established a $10,000 endowed regional scholarship in memory of Harriet Terry; supported the Cleveland Job Corps through its Shower of Love initiative; recruited participants for the AKA Leadership Fellows program; gave chapter scholarships; conducted mentoring programs for Girls Inc. and similar groups.

1990s—Developed Ivy AKAdemies, comprehensive learning centers; received motivational awards for six model AKAdemies; partnered with Piney Woods Country Life School to conduct a regional residential summer math and science camp for 30 middle school students; replicated the Piney Woods model at two additional sites; was the first AKA region to build a school in South Africa; organized chapter foundations.

2000s—Launched Emerging Young Leaders, an AKA initiative to equip girls in grades 6-8 to meet the challenges of the 21st century; conducted a Girl's Youth Summit at the 81st

and 82nd South Eastern Regional Conferences; contributed winning student essays to the Young Authors publication; erected a marker honoring Honorary Member Rosa Parks in collaboration with Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. and the city of Montgomery; facilitated the unveiling of a landmark in Mound Bayou, MS to commemorate the Mississippi Health Project; shared a $1.5 million AKA grant from the U.S. Department of Education to strengthen reading skills at nine demonstration sites, including one at Birmingham, AL administered by Omicron Omega Chapter and another at Jackson, MS administered by Beta Delta Omega Chapter; facilitated construction of a Habitat for Humanity house for a family whose home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina; hosted the AKA Centennial Traveling Exhibit at Memphis, TN (Beta Epsilon Omega Chapter) in 2008; contributed more than $400,000 to 28 HBCUs in the South Eastern Region; announced that 13 regional endowed scholarships have been capitalized with $20,000 or more in their AKA Educational Advancement Foundation accounts; acknowledged recognition of Unsung AKA Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement; conducted Youth Financial Literacy Campaigns; volunteered more than 200,000 hours of service, benefiting 1.8 million people and contributing more than $1.6 million to communities in the South Eastern Region in 2003-2004, a typical year of service in the South Eastern Region.

Mattie Daniels Thomas, Ph.D.
AKA Historian, South Eastern Region
September 2013

INTRODUCTION

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter's Timeless History

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated was chartered in May, 1965. The Charter Members were: Fannie Brown, Norma Caples, Nadine Cleggett, Barbara Cooke, Adrian Croutch, Mary Dubra, Gwendolyn Dunn, Sara Dunn, Norma Graham, Louise Harris, Doris Hawthorne, Vivian Scott, Gwendolyn Spates and Mamie Stokes.

The charter members moved to the Gulf Coast from various places in the United States and abroad. They soon realized that living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast was a very enriching experience. The members of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter invite you to read about the seven cities that developed from the wilderness into major cities of the world and the role of Theta Zeta Omega members in that transformation.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter

Back row left to right: *Louise Harris, Norma Graham, Adrian Croutch, Fannie Brown, Norma Caples, Doris Hawthorne, Sara Dunn*

Front row left to right: *Gwendolyn Spates, Barbara Cooke, Julia Purnell (16th Supreme Basileus, 1962-1966), Reva Allman (South Eastern Regional Director, 1963-1966), Vivian Scott*

THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST: A BRIEF GENEALOGY

By Wattine Hannah and Norma Graham

The city of Gulfport, Mississippi is the largest of the cities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and one of the major areas of residency for the charter members of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter. The history of Gulfport was initially prompted by the city's Centennial preparation. City founding fathers were Captain William Harris Hardy and Captain Joseph T. Jones. Gulfport was charted in 1898 and received a new mayor.

In 1887, wilderness was cleared in preparation for a terminus to receive the new railroad from Jackson and a port extension to Ship Island. The early 1900s saw the advent of many downtown buildings: the now defunct Great Southern Hotel, Coast Trolley Railroad System followed by the building of the seawall. During World War I, new developments included an airfield, hospitals, and the beginning of the present day infrastructure, which were business and social organizations, namely the Yacht club, Elks Lodge and Mardi Gras. One of Gulfport's major and continuing events is the WORLD'S LARGEST SEAFOOD RODEO. After the first century, Gulfport succeeded in becoming the STATE'S SECOND LARGEST CITY. Ship Island is revealed from its early exploration by D' Iberville through periods as a major port anchorage, immigration port, a quarantine station, a staging ground for troops during the war of 1812, and a sight for a series of LIGHTHOUSES. Today the Barrier Island is part of the National Park Services with Park Rangers maintaining Fort Massachusetts located on the island.

Biloxi-Ocean Springs: Biloxi is a peninsula. Its written history is over three hundred years old, but its ancient history is over ten thousand years old. Biloxi's colonial maritime history was tied to the French, English and Spanish. Attractive to early settlers was timber, raw materials for sailing vessels, seafood and other animals. In February 1699, Canadian warrior Pierre Le Moyne Sieur D'Iberville landed on the Biloxi peninsula. His arrival marked the beginning of France's attempt to colonize the vast Mississippi Valley, in rivalry with England and Spain. In 1719, they created the town known as NOUVEAU BILOXY.[1] The site served briefly as the capital of French Louisiana and for Europeans settlement along the Mississippi. By the 19th century, all the land was awarded claimant under a Spanish Land Grand System. In 1803 the Mississippi Gulf Coast became part of the United

[1] 1719 spelling of Biloxi by Pierre Le Moyne Sieur Le D'Iberville.

States, under the Louisiana Purchase. In 1811-1812 the Mississippi Territory entered the Union with the state of MISSISSIPPI.

During World War I, the sailing vessels were replaced by gasoline-powered vessels. The seafood industry continued. Creation of a major World War II military port, KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, revitalized the Biloxi's sluggish economy. In early 1950 the seafood industry boomed and the "the longest man-made beach in the United States was created along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. In 1980, Biloxi became a leader in the seafood processing industry due to new found technology. In 1993, GAMING became a reality. By the end of the 20th century, the Biloxi peninsula had become a National Resort/retirement destination. For 300 years, local waters have been accessible to almost everyone for commerce and recreation.

Jackson County was organized in 1812 for Andrew Jackson who established a thriving, slave-operated sawmill business. Lumber was loaded for foreign ports. Moss Point was a lumber empire. Three of the twelve sawmills were in Moss Point. In 1895, due to lumber, Moss Point was the better known Mississippi Gulf Coast area to Europeans, until Gulfport became a port in 1910. Pine was tested in Sweden for papermaking. Thus Southern Paper Mill formed, later known as the International PAPER Incorporated. Moss Point was the first to become a city without first becoming a town.

Port of Pascagoula: The name, Pascagoula, came from the Indians, meaning, "bread eating." They grew corn and made bread. Jackson County boasts of an area rich in industrial and retail development. Its cities, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, Gautier, Vancleave, and Escatawpa helped form a population of over 115,243 individuals. These cities are served by the following highways: US 90, Mississippi 613, US 63, and Interstate 10. The Mississippi Railroad Company connected with the main line of CSX in Pascagoula and the waterways.

2013 marks the 75th anniversary for Ingalls Shipbuilding, a major shipbuilding industry located in Pascagoula, MS, where cargo ships and barges have been built. Today, the most advanced ships in the world are being built there. The hard work performed by its men and women has earned Ingalls Shipbuilding the title "AMERICA'S SHIPYARD."

Famous people important to the history of Pascagoula are: Zachary Taylor - home building; Admiral David Farragut, credited with capturing Pascagoula; Andrew Jackson – county named after him; and poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who wrote, "The Building of a Ship."

Attractions: Fresh and salt water fishing, hunting, full time recreation, art, parks and playgrounds, beautiful oak trees, gardens—tropical and semi-tropical, flowering plants, stately, homes, warm and friendly people.

Whether tormentor or savior, the Gulf Coast of the United States, has been instrumental in shaping the MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST.

The African-American presence on the Mississippi Gulf Coast made it plausible for the inception of a Theta Zeta Omega Chapter as a strong community force. Several groups and organizations were formed on the Gulf Coast as a result of the Civil Rights Movement. The Biloxi Civic League was organized by Dr. Gilbert R. Mason and Dr. Felix Dunn. Dr. Dunn was the spouse of one of the charter members, Sara Dunn. Other organizations included the Harrison County Civic Action Committee, North Gulfport Civic League, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). However, many African-Americans in Biloxi and the surrounding area were wary of joining the NAACP because of possible repercussions from the white community. As a result, initial membership and participation were better in the other organizations. As time passed, the Mississippi Gulf Coast hosted many advocates and events that helped South Mississippi become truly integrated on its beaches, in schools and in public facilities. Members of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter were actively involved in these events.

Thanks to the Biloxi Harrison County Library for the research on the coastal cities' History and Genealogy.

Soror Wattine Hannah is one of the first candidates to be accepted into Theta Zeta Omega Chapter. Her reflections and profile are included in the chapter on membership.

Soror Norma Graham is a charter member of the chapter. Her reflections and profile are included in the chapter on charter members.

THE CHARTERING PROCESS

By Glenda Marshall

Theta Zeta Omega (TZO) Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. came together for a real purpose many years ago. A group of interested sorors along the Mississippi Gulf Coast invited Soror Reva Allman, the South Eastern Regional Director at that time, to a luncheon and to give guidance in starting a graduate chapter. The luncheon was held at the Officers' Club at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS. Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was chartered on May 15, 1965 at the Buena Vista Hotel in Biloxi, MS.

Soror Allman, South Eastern Regional Director held the chartering ceremony assisted by Soror Foster from Delta Theta Omega Chapter, Mobile, Alabama. The fourteen charter members were the following:

1. Fannie W. Brown
2. Norma Caples, Dean of Pledges*
3. Nadine Cleggett
4. Barbara Cooke, Basileus
5. Adrian Croutch, Epistoleus**
6. Mary K. Dubra
7. Gwendolyn Dunn
8. Sara Dunn, Tamiouchos
9. Norma Graham, Grammateus*
10. Louise Harris, Parliamentarian
11. Doris Hawthorne, Ivy Leaf Reporter
12. Vivian Scott, Anti-Grammateus
13. Gwendolyn Spates
14. Mamie Stokes

There was a cocktail hour following the chartering at the Buena Vista Hotel when the husbands of the sorors joined the group.

The Chapter's journey began on Sunday, October 31, 1965, with an invitational Introductory Tea held at the Buena Vista Beach Hotel, Sun Room from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with Supreme Basileus, Julia Purnell as guest speaker.

The group was small but was quite full of vigor. They began their chartering process on April 7, 1964, and ended on May 15, 1965. The small group was full of talent, which has

definitely set a precedence for the chapter over the years. Through the years, TZO members have worked on numerous programs such as a reading program, working with the elderly or the veterans at the Biloxi VA and many others. The activities may have changed to pageants, Calendar Girls, or other services that address current community needs, however, TZO is still going strong.

**These two Charter members are active in the chapter as of this publication. Their pictures, profiles and/or reflections are included in this chapter.*

***A tribute to Soror Adrian Croutch from her daughters is also included in this chapter.*

Soror Glenda Marshall's profile is included at the end of this chapter.

Norma Harvey Caples

Vitals:

Born July 14 in Pascagoula, MS
Parents: Will and Sadie Harvey (both deceased)
Spouse: Clifton Caples (deceased)
Children: One son, Harvey Noel Caples Sr.

Education:

- Graduated Pascagoula Negro High School
- B.S. Degree in Education from Tougaloo College
- M.S. Degree in Education from Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, AL

AKA Feats:

- Served as Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus from 1975 to 1976
- Served as Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Membership Chairman
- Initiated in Gamma Omicron Chapter (Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS) in 1950
- Attended numerous South Eastern Regional Conferences and Boules; most notably, New York; New Orleans in 1992; and Dallas, TX.
- Served as Area V Cluster Coordinator.

Employment:

- Moss Point School District, Teacher, 1952 – 1984
- Jackson County Extension Office, Instructor, 1984 - 1992

Other Interesting Facts:

- Served on Board of Directors for JCCA
- Served on Board of Trustees for Union Baptist Church, Pascagoula, MS
- State Officer for the Order of Eastern Star
- Served on Board for Jackson County Head Start Program

Reflections of Soror Norma J. Graham:

One of the original charter members of the chapter.

One lazy summer Sunday afternoon in Gulfport, a small city along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, I received a call from Soror Barbara Cooke in Biloxi, another small city along the MS Gulf Coast. She was interested in forming a chapter in this area and so was I. We, along with other Sorors, worked diligently to accomplish this goal, and guess what-it happened and I became one of the charter members of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Sorority and also received the award for "Soror of the Year" 1988.

Theta Zeta Omega is a very active chapter. Our presence is well-known along the MS Gulf Coast. One of our most outstanding accomplishments was to present a Humanity home to a young family in Gulfport, MS.

During the years, I have attended many clusters, Regional Conferences and a Boule'. Because of these meetings, I was privileged to meet many outstanding Sorors and learn more about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

In 1958, I was initiated into Gamma Phi Chapter at Alcorn College, Lorman, MS. One initiation stunt I'll never forget: We were called worms and were taken fifteen miles from the campus and had to eat cabbage on our 15 mile return walk to the campus. Of course we cheated and caught a ride most of the way back, but we paid for it later.

I taught Business education subjects in the public schools of Pass Christian, MS for 34 years. During that tenure, I was given the "Teacher of the Year" award, and several others. My teaching career was extremely rewarding because my students were as "sweet as pie". (That was then)

After retiring from the school system, I worked for Gulf Coast Community Action Agency Head Start , Gulfport. Some of .my duties were: adult literacy, GED and sewing instructor, social worker and others. My most rewarding job was coordinator for "RIF", Reading is Fundamental, a program partially funded by the Federal Government which dealt with issuing three free books per year to all Head Start students enrolled at the center. One requirement of the program was to include a motivational activity with each distribution. One of the most memorable motivational activities was a tour of the Fire Department with the firemen, dressing the children in their gear, giving them a ride on the fire truck, showing a movie on fire prevention and issuing handouts.

In 2010, I was featured on GOOGLE for my tenure and dedication to the Reading Is Fundamental Program. My favorite pastime is music, practically all kinds. I am proud to have served my sorority for fifty-six years and it is great to be a member of the pink and green.

Norma Washington Graham

Vitals:

Born January 5 in Jackson, MS
Parents: Wyatt and Mildred G. Washington (both deceased)
Spouse: Joseph Maurice Graham, Sr. (deceased)
Children:

- One son, Joseph Maurice Graham, Sr.
- Two daughters:
  - Nina Graham Taylor
  - Evangeline Graham Dean

Education:

- Graduated Lanier High School, Jackson, MS
- B.S. Degree in Education from Alcorn University
- M.S. Degree in Education from William Carey University, Gulfport, MS
- Attended the University of Wisconsin and the University of Southern Mississippi for further studies

Employment:

- Business Teacher at Pass Christian High School
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community Action Agency – Head Start Program

Other Interesting Facts:

- Volunteer Work for Mt. Bethel Baptist church, Gulfport, MS
- Played Piano and loves Music.

AKA Feats:

- Served as Theta Zeta Omega Chapter's first Grammateus
- Served as Tamiouchos for the Chapter
- Served on the Little Miss AKA Fund-Raiser Committee
- Initiated in Gamma Phi Chapter (Alcorn University, Alcorn, MS)
- Attended numerous South Eastern Regional Conferences and Boules. The first Boule attended was while an undergraduate at Alcorn.

Adrian Yvonne Marsalis Croutch

Tribute from her Daughters: Sorors Jana and Vania

Joy to the World

joy

: a feeling of great happiness

: a source or cause of great happiness: something or someone that gives joy to someone

Many live their whole lives never really experiencing *true* joy. My sister and I experienced JOY in its most pure form through one of God's most beautiful angels….Adrian Yvonne Marsalis Croutch. She was a God-fearing, kindhearted, giving, thoughtful, compassionate, and humble wife and mother. She was also a woman who found unspeakable joy in actively being a voice in her classroom, community, church and sorority. She was and is the epitome of what Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority stands for.

She was the first in our family to pledge AKA in 1956 at Alcorn State University's Gamma Phi Chapter. She later went on to become a Charter member of Theta Zeta Omega, realizing that her beloved sorority needed to be a part of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. All of her sisters, many of our cousins, and eventually her own daughters would follow suit and also embrace the wonderful Sisterhood that is AKA.

So, as you can imagine, growing up we knew early on the importance of giving from the heart, community service, charitable giving and Sisterhood. These values were not only instilled in us, but practiced in our household.

Looking back we have fond memories growing up with our mother, and unbeknownst to us at the time, the influence of Alpha Kappa Alpha. We often laugh at the time she was asked to make our kindergarten graduation robes and they just so happened to be green with pink hoods. It was also no coincidence that at home we cleaned up in one of a few pink and green decorated bathrooms before retiring to our pink (Vania) and green (Jana) bedrooms. Falling in love with those colors at very young age was not all that we took away from our mother's love for Alpha Kappa Alpha.

It also gave her enormous joy to demonstrate how a "lady" is to behave to her daughters, as well as our friends. Our friends can tell you of the epic tea parties we would have at our house when they would come to visit. Mom would make her famous tea cakes along with hot and iced tea and drop pearls of wisdom, including how to sit and not "plop". As you can imagine, tea parties were all the rage during our childhood! When we were older, our friends and family continued to travel from far and near to speak with her and get her sage advice-which came with a side of hugs, kisses and a bible verse or two.

She is remembered by many and her smile lives on in our hearts. Right in that very good and pure place where her beautiful soul touched us; that is where the joy that she brought into our lives rests each and every day.

Glenda Marshall

Vitals:
Born: October 28 in Holcomb, MS
Parents: Frank Hamilton and Louise Buchanan
Spouse: Charles E. Marshall, Sr.
Children - One son:
- Thaddeus Demetrius White

Two grandchildren: Thaddeus D. White, Jr. & Terrion White

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Gamma Phi Chapter in 1965
Has attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Clusters, and Boules since initiation.

Served as Chapter Grammateus, Tamiouchos, and Ivy Leaf Reporter
Served as Membership Chairman, Scholarship Committee Chairman, Standards Committee Chairman, and Fund-Raising Committee Chairman

Education:
Graduated Allen Carver High School, Charleston, MS
B.S. Degree from Alcorn A&M College in 1967
Master's Degree from William Carey University, Hattiesburg, MS
Gifted Certification, 1998, University of Southern Mississippi

Employment:
Gulfport School System, Teacher, 34+ years
N.D. Taylor High School, Yazoo City, MS

Other Interesting Facts:
- Mississippi State University Extension Services, 2003-2004
- Small Business Administration, 2005-2008
- American Red Cross, 2009-2011
- Back Bay Mission, 2011-present

MEMBERSHIP

By Patricia Hall and Catherine Adams Mason

Membership in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter began gradually. After its establishment, more than nine years passed before new members were added to the membership. The first line was in 1974 adding three new members. They were Wattine Mitchell Hannah, Emma Wells and Norweda Woods. Two members of this first line are still active today in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter. (*Their profiles are included on the pages immediately following this section.*) By the end of the 1970's most of the charter members were no longer affiliated with Theta Zeta Omega Chapter.

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter members are drawn from the coastal counties of Mississippi. They are Harrison, Jackson and Hancock. These counties are home to Keesler Air Force Base, Stennis Space Center, Naval Construction Battalion, United States Coast Guard, E.I. Du Pont Co., Huntington Ingalls, William Carey University, University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park and Mississippi Community Colleges. For the last 20 years gaming has become an integral part of the economy. The first ten to fifteen years, the majority of members were educators.

During the 1980's, membership increased by 89%. Members were moving to a more diverse group. Women who had careers outside of education were becoming active participates in the chapter. Careers were not the only change in our chapter. In the early years, most members were married with children. As the 1980's waned, the makeup of new members began to change from the traditional members to being younger and single.

In the 1990's, membership intake increased again. There were intakes in 1991, 1993, 1996, 1998 and 1999. TZO experienced loss of members due to moving away from area as well as death. During this time, four of our beloved members became Ivies Beyond the Wall. They were Norweda Woods, Betty Allen, Alma Zimmerman, and Sara Dunn.

The 21st Century ushered in a large growth in our membership. We had recent graduates transferring in to our graduate chapter as well as members who moved to the area. There were membership intakes in 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007 for a total of 34 new members which included legacies. We aggressively reactivated members during this time. Our chapter grew from a small chapter to a medium size chapter. We had Ivies Beyond the Walls and they were, Adrian Croutch, Hilda Montgomery and Lucimarian Roberts (*mother of ABC News Broadcaster, Robin Roberts and Soror Sally-Ann Roberts, anchorwoman for WWL-TV in New Orleans, LA*).

Our goals are to continue growth by retaining and reactivating members.

Evidence of Growth of Membership. In 2007, the chapter retained 58 active sorors from 2006. The chapter retained 100% of the sorors initiated in 2006:10. Five sorors were reactivated and 2 sorors transferred in to our chapter. We had a total of 65 sorors. In 2008, the chapter retained 57 active sorors from 2007. We retained 100% of the sorors initiated in 2006:10. Seven sorors were reactivated and 2 sorors transferred in to our chapter. We had a total of 65 sorors. We also initiated 14 new sorors. This addition brought our chapter membership to 81 sorors—the largest membership in our history. The chapter lost a few members in 2009 due to the impact of the economy, but we maintained strong numbers at 72. All 14 of the sorors initiated in 2008 remained active in 2009 and 2010. In 2009, the chapter started a "We Help Each Other Fund" to collect donations from sorors toward dues payments for sorors who lost their jobs and would otherwise be unable to remain active. In 2010, the chapter had the most successful reactivation campaign in its history and reactivated 10 members! We also reached a record number of 8 Life Members. All members of the 2008 MIP class reactivated in 2010, leaving a 100% retention rate for the class. The membership held strong at 78 despite the tough impact of the economy. The chapter has experienced the highest membership during the 2007-2010 administration.

We have several reactivation and sisterly relations activities that promote and cultivate the retention of our pearls. In June 2007, we began the AKA Family Picnic, a reactivation and retention activity aimed at fostering sisterhood among current members and a welcoming environment for reclaiming our lost pearls. Invitations are sent out to

inactive sorors in the community. Many of them attend the event, and several reactivate with the chapter. We held this event again in June 2008 and June 2009. In December 2007, we hosted "Bring a Soror Home for the Holidays," a reactivation party held at the end of our December chapter meeting. We held a Pink Pizzazz Party in December 2008. We also capitalized on the Centennial Founders Day Program in January 2008 to reclaim our lost pearls. We invited all inactive sorors in the area to attend the program. The AKA Family Picnic and the Pink Pizzazz Party were continued in 2009. Six inactive sorors attended and two sorors reactivated at the Pink Pizzazz Party. In 2010, the chapter began the Tickled Pink Thursday monthly sisterly relation event.

In order to foster sisterly relations, the chapter held a Chapter Retreat in August 2009. This two-day event was full of fun and inspiration. Almost 40 chapter members participated and everyone had a great time together strengthening our sisterly bond. A seminar on "The True Essence of Leadership—A balancing act' was presented. The presentation focused on Change, Growth, Dispute Resolution, Time, Attitude and Emotion, Communication, Relationship Building, Assessment and Critique, Fun, and Mission Building using the analogy of fire and water to emphasize the need for balance in all of these areas. There were several soror-led presentations that served to stimulate passion among sorors and reinvigorate us for more engaged service in the chapter and sorority as a whole. The 2010 retreat was a huge success as well. The event called upon several recently reactivated sorors to present retreat topics as a way of further engaging them in the chapter.

The most awesome sisterly relations activity ever was when the 18th Supreme Basileus, Soror Matelia B. Grays spoke at our 2010 Founders' Day. Sorors were blessed to spend time with a living legacy during the weekend that she was among us. Soror Matelia was gracious and humble and really helped us to focus on the true meaning of sisterhood and the rich heritage of our glorious sorority. She gave an inspiring speech on true leadership. Her presence enriched the lives of many sorors during our celebration of our Founders and the legacy they created.

Reflections of Soror Wattine Hannah:

She is one of the first candidates to be accepted into Theta Zeta Omega Chapter

The invitation and beginning of interest:

In 1962, I accepted my second job on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Being reared in a Christian home, I of course searched for a United Methodist church and was pleased with St. Mark in Gulfport, MS. There I joined the Wesleyan Service Guild (WSG) and met Soror Sara Dunn, a chartering member of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter. After working together with WSG in Christian Discipleship, Sarah and I became friends. It was then that she encouraged me to join this Great Sorority.

After studying the local and national histories of the sorority, I became very interested in this group whose motto is: Service to Mankind. I discovered that the program consisted of giving scholarships to deserving youth, the Black Family, training and encouraging youth for leadership roles in society, health concerns, veteran services and numerous other functions, namely the Salvation Army and The Summer Reading Program.

During that time, the chapter members planned teas for the interest group. We began to bond in friendship. There I met other chartering members: Mrs. Doris Hawthorne, Mrs. Norma Jean Graham, Mrs. Spates, and Mrs. Louise Harris.

Sara Dunn was my mentor and supporter. There were three ladies nominated: myself, Mrs. Norweda Woods, and Mrs. Emma Wells. Soror Norweda Woods is now an Ivy Beyond the Wall.

Preparation for Study:

A few of the requirements were to learn the National Founders, research and study the periodical called the Ivy Leaf, identify the National Officers and the officers of the South Eastern Region, know the beginning history at Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908, the Greek Letters and prepare a scrapbook of our findings.

We worked diligently, getting ready to become members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In given time, we met at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church for the ceremony. We wore all white attire.

During the ceremony, I was pinned with Soror Sara's sorority pin until receipt of my pin. Thanks, to Soror Dunn, I made it!

This was a happy and honorable occasion for me in 1974. As of today, I have become a Silver member which requires 25 years of service. I am looking forward to becoming a Golden member! (*Soror Wattine's profile is on the following page.*)

Wattine Mitchell Hannah

1st Initiate in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter

Vitals:
Born May 27 in Como, MS
Parents: Wallace and Ruby Mitchell (both deceased)
Children: One daughter: Maurita D. Hannah

AKA Feats:
- Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1974
- Has always been active in the Chapter
- Attended numerous South Eastern Regional Clusters and Conferences; most notably, Clusters in Biloxi, Meridian, and Vicksburg, MS, and Mobile, AL; Regional Conferences in Mobile, AL; Jackson, MS and Memphis, TN

Employment:
- Harrison Central High School, Teacher, 1970 – 1971
- Gulfport High School, Teacher, 1971 – 1989
- North Gulfport High School, Teacher, 1962 – 1970
- Gulf Coast community College, Jeff-Davis Campus, Teacher, 1991-1992
- U. S. Department of Agriculture, Entomology Lab Technician during summers.

Education:
- Graduated Greenwood High School, Greenwood, MS
- B.S. Degree in Biology from Mississippi Valley State University
- M.S. Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Science Education
- Attended SMU, PSU (National Science Foundation, 3 summers)

Other Interesting Facts:
- Served on Standards, ACT Testing, Fundraising, Summer Reading Program, AKA Pageant Committees.
- Received the Mississippi Outstanding biology Teacher Award in 1975 given by the NSTA
- Served as President of NSTA – MS
- Instrumental in organizing the Harrison County Science Teachers Association.
- Served as member of the Harrison county Red Cross Board of Directors.

Emma Harvey Wells

1st Initiate in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter

Vitals:

Born June 30 in Pascagoula, MS

Parents: Will and Sadie Harvey (both deceased)

Spouse: Charles E. Wells (deceased)

Children: Two daughters (*both are also members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.*):

- Claudia Morgan
- Cathy Wells

AKA Feats:

- Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1974
- Has always been active in the Chapter
- Served for a number of years as Chapter Tamiouchos

Attended numerous South Eastern Regional Clusters and Conferences; and Boules

Education:

- Graduated Pascagoula Negro High School
- B.S. Degree in Education from Alabama State University

Employment:

- Moss Point School District, Teacher, 1960 – 1984

Reflections of Soror Catherine Mason:

She served as Membership Chairman of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter

In April of 1977, my family and I relocated to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As a young Navy Officer's wife and mother of two small children, my primary contacts in the area were limited to other Navy wives. One day, I decided to take a walk in the neighborhood with my children. To my surprise, I met a young couple working in their yard. I stopped and introduced myself. It was during this encounter I learned that Soror Bernell T. Kelly was my soror and the treasurer of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter (TZO). She invited me to visit the next chapter meeting. Soror Bernell went out her way to ensure that I was able to attend the meeting. She picked me up and arranged a babysitter. Since then, I have learned Soror Bernell's act of kindness was an example of the TZO sisterly way. Connecting with the TZO sorors meant service projects and sisterly fellowship. After attending my first meeting, I knew I would be joining Theta Zeta Omega Chapter.

Within a year of transferring into Theta Zeta Omega, I became the Membership Chairperson. Membership has always been my focus in our dear sorority. It is my belief that good membership training and in-depth knowledge of Alpha Kappa Alpha's history are the foundation of a dedicated lifetime member. Over a twelve year period, I served as Membership Chairperson or History Review Leader during the membership intake process. I am very proud to see a number of the ladies who were initiated during this period have maintained active status and hold various positions within the sorority.

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter has helped me weather several storms along the path of my life. In 1994, when my only son was killed in an automobile accident, my sorors were extremely supportive. In fact, one of my TZO sisters, Soror Eloise Williams literally moved into our home to care for us. Another example of our sisterly bond was displayed during my battle with breast cancer in 2009. Theta Zeta Omega took sisterhood to the highest level by keeping in touch for an entire year. Although I was recovering in Jackson, MS, they often visited bearing gifts and offered prayers. The Program Health Committee started honoring survivors of breast cancer on the Mississippi Gulf Coast by participating in fundraisers and walks in my honor. I cannot thank my TZO sorors enough for their support and efforts for breast cancer survivors. The many acts of sisterly kindness, community fellowship, and award winning service projects have had a profound effect on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and me. I am honored to be a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Theta Zeta Omega Chapter.

Catherine Adams Mason

Vitals:
Born: November 30 in Jackson, MS
Parents: Willie Lincoln and Mary Catherine Bibbs Adams (both deceased)
Spouse: John B. Mason, Jr.
Children:

- One son: Roy L. Irons, II (deceased)
- One daughter: Dr. Shunda Irons-Brown (AKA)

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Gamma Omicron Chapter in 1970
Attended numerous South Eastern Regional Conferences, Leadership conferences, and Boules since initiation.
Served as Membership Chairman (1978-1996)
Serves as Scholarship Committee Chairman
Served as Representative on the Gulf Coast Pan-Hellenic Council

Education:
Graduated Brinkley High School, Jackson, MS
B.S. Degree in Psychology from Tougaloo College
Masters in Psychology from University of Iowa

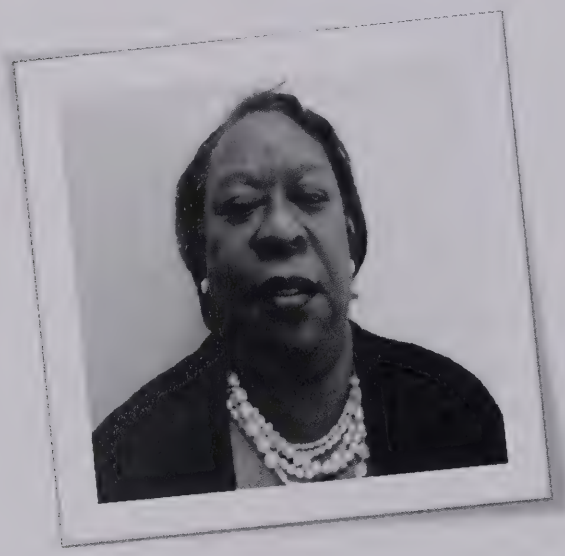
Employment:
State Farm Insurance Agency, March 1, 1988 – present
Owner of Your Florist – FTD, June 1982 – 1988
Gulfport Gulf Coast Mental Health Center
Adult Center, Director Mississippi Department of Human Services – Gulfport
Psychologist: MS School for Blind Deaf

Other Interesting Facts:
Attended Mississippi AKA Days at the Capitol/Connection Committee
Life Member of AKA
Life Member of NAACP
Recipient of the 2010 Adrian Croutch Community Service Award
Recipient of the Orange Grove – Gulfport Rotarian of the Year (2001)
Three times Paul Harris Fellow
Board Chairman Gulf Coast Goodwill Industry 1990-1998
Susan G. Komen – Steel Magnolia chapter Special Individual Fundraiser Award

Patricia Hall

Vitals:
Born: March 9 in Utica, MS
Parents: Estus Hood Sr. and Elvira Myles Hood (both deceased)
Spouse: Dr. Louis J. Hall
Children:
- One son: Kevin M. Hall
- One daughter: Tiffany P. Hall Temple

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1986
Attended numerous South Eastern Regional Conferences, Clusters, Boules, and Leadership Conferences since initiation.
Serves as Chapter Anti-Basileus, 1989-1990
Served as Membership Chairman, Scholarship Committee Chairman, Standards Committee Chairman, and Fund-Raising Committee Chairman



Education:
Graduated William Holtzclaw High School, Crystal, MS
B.S. Degree from Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Employment:
Social Security Administration – Operation Supervisor, 1998=2008
Social Security Administration – Claims Representative, 1973-1998
St. John High School Science Teacher, 1972-1973

Other Interesting Facts:
- AKA Woman of the Year
- Outstanding Job Performance at the Social Security Administration
- City of Pass Christian, MS Planning Commission
- President – Gulf Coast Pan Hellenic Council
- Member, South Eastern Region Scholarship Committee
- Winner of the Spirit of Sisterhood Award

Reflections of Soror Carolyn Bell Jennings:

She transferred to Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1983.

I joined Theta Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, June 6, 1981 at the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The Supreme Basileus at that time was Barbara Kinard Phillips and the Supreme Grammateus was Rosalind E. Griffin. After a year I transferred to Xi Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, June 27, 1982. The chapter was Basileus Raygene P. Dunlap. I became a member of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1983 (*Gulf Coast Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority*).

As an educator of Music Education, I worked in Greenwood School System at Threadgill Elementary and High School. I loved working with students in music. I wanted to be closer to home so the next year I accepted a position in the Pascagoula School System: Fair Elementary and Carver High School. I worked at Fair Elementary School until I gave birth to my son, Bethew Bertrand Jennings III in 1968.

After maternity leave, I accepted a contract in Moss Point School Systems as a Music Teacher at East Park Elementary, Magnolia Elementary and Magnolia High School. I worked in the Moss Point Schools until 1988. I returned to the Pascagoula School System: Lake Elementary and Central Elementary Schools. I retired in 1991. I returned back to Pascagoula School System as a substitute teacher for ten years. Total teaching forty years including private piano, voice, and organ lessons.

I'm retired but still enjoy leading Our National Hymn and Sorority Songs of Alpha Kappa Alpha. As the chapter Hodegos, my duty was to receive and introduce all visitors. I was also chairman of the Courtesy Committee. I held this office many years and enjoyed working with all Sorors. I currently hold the office of Chapter Philacter and my duty is to guard efficiently the doors and entrance to all meetings and to announce all alarms. I've enjoyed all of my positions as a member of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter.

I feel sisterly love for all sorors. I was chosen as "AKA Woman of the Year" in February 2003. It was a wonderful year!

Twenty five years passed fast. I became a Silver Soror in 2007 and attended the Centennial Boule July 11th thru 18th in Washington, D.C. The trip was awesome!

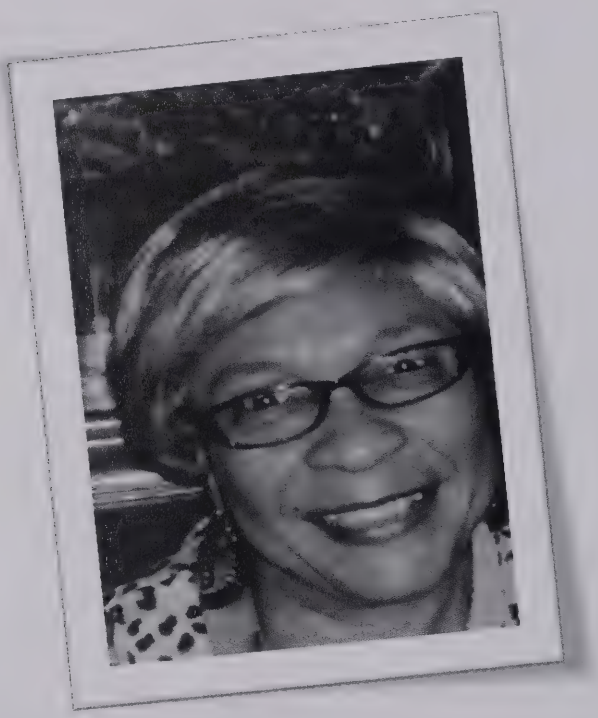
On April 1, 2009, I became a life member. Theta Zeta Omega Chapter keeps me busy but I enjoy the many activities we have during the year.

Carolyn Bell Jennings

Vitals:
Born: February 211 in Columbia, MS
Parents: Louis Claude and Edna Earl Bell (both deceased)
Spouse: Bethew Bertrand Jennings, Jr.
Children:

- Three sons:
  - Rickey Renard Hayes
  - Bethew Bertrand Jennings III
  - Earltrand Wood Jennings

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Sigma Omega Chapter in 1981
Attended several Clusters, South Eastern Regional Conferences and Boules since initiation.
Serves as Chapter Hodegos for a number of years.
Serves as Chapter Philacter



Education:
Graduated Marion County Training High School, Columbia, MS
B.S. Degree in Music Education with emphasis on Vocal Music from Jackson College (now Jackson State University, Jackson, MS)
Graduate work completed at Dillard University in New Orleans, LA and University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS

Employment:
Music Educator:
Greenwood School System, Greenwood, MS
Moss Point School System, Moss Point, MS
Pascagoula School System, Pascagoula, MS

Other Interesting Facts:

A. 2003 AKA Woman of the Year
B. Silver Soror
C. Life Member

CHAPTER BASILEI THROUGH THE YEARS

Theta Zeta Omega (TZO) Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was chartered on May 15, 1965. Since that time, TZO have had several great Basilei from 1965 to the present. They are the following:

1965-1966	Barbara Cooke
1967-1967	Gwendolyn Spates
1968-1970	Janet Alfred
1973-1974	Alice Emanuel
1975-1976	Norma Caples
1977-1980	Louise Harris
1981-1984	Margaret Bush
1985-1986	Carolyn Rushing
1987-1990	Lynda Simmons
1991-1992	Alice Emanuel
1993-1996	Barbara Irvin
1997-1998	Margaret Bush
1999-2000	Barbara Irvin
2001-2002	Rose Taylor-Autmon
2003-2004	Angela McCon
2005-2006	Viria May
2007-2010	Stephanie Barnes Taylor
2011-2012	Tenesha Batiste
2013-present	Schermonique Taylor

Expressions of many of the Chapter Basilei along with their profiles are provided on the following pages.

Reflections of Soror Margaret B. Bush:

She served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter for two separate terms, from 1981 through 1984 and from 1997 through 1998.

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter has been a part of my life for over 30 years. It feels like an extension of my being. Its members have been my family and in many instances a force that pushed me to excel and utilize talents that I didn't realize were a part of me.

One event that truly comes to mind is the regional planning for the 2000 conference in Biloxi, MS .Our chapter worked with the Mobile, Hattiesburg and Meridian chapters to plan the conference. We formed bonds that have lasted to this day. We worked, cried and even disagreed, but our overall goal was to show visiting sorors southern hospitality and make it a conference to remember.

The conference was a learning experience for me. I learned sorority protocol, hotel and convention center negotiations, gift selections, and most importantly how to get along with many different personalities. There were many late meetings, phone calls day and night, and any many trips to the convention center. There were many obstacles along the way- increased numbers of sorors, printing difficulties, meal selections and hotel rooms that did not meet our standards. However, the key to making the puzzles pieces fit was the dedication and hard work of the sorors. We bonded and made it happen.

When the conference ended on Sunday, we all exhaled and cried. The tears were tears of joy because we made it despite the obstacles. We were sisters, we showed love and respect and we accomplished our goal.

Margaret B. Bush

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

1981-1984 and 1997-1998

Vitals:
Born: July 7 in Gloster, MS
Parents: Roy and Ruth Harris (both deceased)
Spouse: Billy Bush
Children:
- One daughter: Anika Bush (an AKA)
- One son: Christopher Bush

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Gamma Rho Chapter in 1973
Attended all Clusters since 1979
Attended all South Eastern Regional Conferences since 1979 except 2012
Attended 9 Boules, 5 Leadership Conferences, and 2 National Founders' Day
South Eastern Cluster V Coordinator
Chairman, 2000 South Eastern Regional Conference Planning Committee
AKA Women of the Year, 2 times
Served on all chapter committees
Organized TZO Book Club, Acquiring Knowledge Always
Chairman, TZO Basilei Council

Education:
Graduated Amite County High School, Gloster, MS
B.S., Masters and Specialist Degrees from Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
Masters in Administration & Psychometry from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS

Employment:
Assistant Superintendent of Jackson County Schools, 2005 - 2010
Director of Special Education & Psychometrist, Jackson County Schools, 2000 - 2005
Teacher, Jackson County Schools, 1986 – 2000
Teacher, Canton Public Schools, Moss Point Public Schools, and Pascagoula Public Schools, 1975 – 1986
Adjunct Instructor, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and University of Southern Mississippi
Educational Consultant and Facilitator—Institute for Workforce Development and National Institute for School Leadership, 2010 to present

Other Interesting Facts:
Served on Jackson County Red Cross Board, Health and Handicapped Board, MAFEPD Board
Served as State President – Council for exceptional Children and Council of Administrators for Special Education
Received Humanitarian Award from Zonta Club of Pascagoula
Served on numerous South Eastern Regional Committees

Reflections of Soror Carolyn Rushing

She served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter from 1985 through 1986

I was first exposed to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on the campus of Jackson State University in 1955. One of my roommates was from Brookhaven, Mississippi. She had accepted the invitation to pledge and join this sorority. My other roommate was a very close friend from my hometown. We attended elementary school together and decided to go off to college together. She and I had the opportunity to see first-hand what Alpha Kappa Alpha was all about and we grew to love it. We observed the community projects and programs our roommate was involved in on a regular basis. Alpha Kappa Alpha impressed us and carved out a special place in our hearts. We longed to become AKA members.

Upon graduating from college we each went in different directions. I started a teaching career in Gulfport, Mississippi and after a few years was invited to consider becoming an AKA by one of our charter members, Soror Louise Harris. I was somewhat reluctant at first thinking that college provided the best opportunities to belong to a sorority. However, after asking several questions and being told the sorority had a need for someone with skills in reading to start a Summer Reading Program in the community.

Teaching reading was a passion I enjoyed and so I immediately reconsidered accepting the invitation to pledge. Soror Wattine Hannah offered to be my sponsor, encouraging and assuring me that this would be a gratifying experience. This was one of the very best decisions I have made in my lifetime. I was initiated May 21, 1978 and without delay started planning and organizing a Coastal Community Summer Reading Program sponsored by Theta Zeta Omega. Students were targeted in the Gulfport, Biloxi, and Moss Point areas for a two week tutorial program. I have been very proud to consider this being my legacy to our chapter.

Upon a visit from my college roommate and friend she informed me that she had become a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha in the Great Lakes Region where she was teaching. We surprised each other with our choice to become graduate members in the sorority we each had admired and always loved. Our college dream had become a reality.

I have so many great AKA experiences worthy of sharing but I treasure the post travels after two Boules to Germany, Austria, Rome Italy and Venice. We traveled with two of our esteemed Supreme Basilei, Soror Eva L. Evans and Soror Norma S. White.

Lastly, my invaluable experience with Alpha Kappa Alpha through Theta Zeta Omega Chapter have exposed and enhanced my knowledge, skills and wisdom of how "Service to All Mankind" can make a significant difference in the community, nation, and the world. I am very proud of my decision to be a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Carolyn Patterson Rushing

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

1985-1986

Vitals:
Born: March 9 in Bay St. Louis, MS
Parents: Rev. Frank H. and Mrs. Mabel E. Patterson (both deceased)
Spouse: Sidney Lanier Rushing
Children:

- One daughter: Kim Michelle Rushing Ingram (an AKA)
- One son: Sidney Lanier Rushing, Jr.
- Grandsons: Julian Lanier Ingram
  Kenny Gregory Ingram

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1978
Attended 12 Boules, first of which was in Atlanta, GA in 1980. The most recent one was in 2012 in San Francisco, CA. Attended numerous Clusters and Regional conferences.

Education:
Graduated Valena C. Jones High School, Bay St. Louis, MS
B.S., Degree from Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
Masters in Elementary Education from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS
Specialist Degree Certifications in Administration, Early Education, and Elementary Education from William Carey College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Campus

Employment:
Parent Coordinator, 28th Street Elementary School, 1995
Principal, 28th Street Elementary School, 1985 - 1994
Follow Through Coordinator, Gulfport School District, 1983 – 1985
Teacher/Resource Teacher, Gulfport School District, 1959 – 1983

Other Interesting Facts:

- Served as Chairman of numerous TZO Committees, Connections, Reading Program, and Founders' Day Program.
- Was the First Reading Program Chairman for the Chapter.
- Conducted numerous chapter Initiation workshops, presented history for new members, conducted installation of officers, and presented growth workshops as a member of the Chapter Basilei Council
- Mentored four students from Zambia in connection with the Gaston Point Community Development Corporation.

Awards:

- AKA Woman of the Year, 1987
- Received numerous awards and special recognition, most notably, was recognized in the 1983-1984 Who's Who in Fraternities and Sororities. Received the Superior Resource Teacher Award at Gaston point Elementary in Gulfport, MS in 1982-1983.
- Received Special Recognition for "Leadership Gulf Coast" in 1991
- Received the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Ambassador Award, NAACP, Gulfport Branch, October 2013

Reflections of Soror Lynda L. Simmons:

She served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter from 1987 through 1990.

As I reflect on the years that I served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the images reveal the invaluable impact this experience had on my life and my journey to become a dedicated servant to the community through my beloved Sorority.

I became an active member of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1983, and served as Basileus from January 1987 through December 1990. During my administration, the theme of our National Program was "Service with a Global Perspective," which included seven Program Strands. I had the opportunity soon after being elected Basileus, to discuss the role of sororities in the Black Community on WLOX-TV in Biloxi, MS.

One of the first actions taken by the Executive Committee was to secure a **permanent meeting place** at the Ocean Springs Library. Prior to making this change, we met in various locations due to the fact that our membership included sorors from both Harrison County and Jackson County. Ocean Springs was recommended because it was centrally located to the members' places of residence. Since this location provided the most equitable travel time for the membership, it was approved by the Chapter, and resulted in improved attendance to chapter meetings.

An **AKA Newsletter was created** in 1987 as a tool to enhance our sisterhood by communicating Chapter News as well as highlighting news about sorors accomplishments and courtesies. In addition, a **Chapter Handbook** was created that same year to include the Chapter's History, Roster, Committees, Chapter members' responsibilities, and monthly Program initiatives.

During my administration, **Scholarship guidelines** were re-written and we were able to increase our scholarships from $500.00 to $3,000.00 due to a change in our fundraising project.

The Dreamer Award was also established and presented yearly to recognize individuals for their humanitarian accomplishments in both Jackson County and Harrison County. This award was presented during the month of January at programs honoring the life of Martin L. King, Jr.

The programs the Chapter supported and sponsored during my Administration included the following:

- *Adopted an HBCU - Rust College, Holly Springs, MS*
- *Calendar Girl Pageant – increased revenues to allow an increase in scholarships*
- *Black History Month Displays at local libraries*
- *World Hunger Day Project*
- *Reading Program*
- *Three Scholarships to graduating seniors*
- *Participated in Gulf Coast Pan Hellenic Council*
- *Sponsored Brownie Troop*
- *Dreamer Award (Yearly event)*
- *Supported Cleveland Job Corp – donations*
- *Adolescent Pregnancy/Child Watch Project*
- *Sponsored ACT Workshop*
- *Supported Adopted Local Family*
- *Participated in Health Fair*
- *Sponsored Legislative and Political Action Projects*
- *Sponsored Elected Officials Reception*
- *Contributed to Hurricane Hugo Relief Fund*
- *Spring Ball and Fashion Extravaganza (Ivies in the Summertime)*

Lynda L. Simmons

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

1987-1990

Vitals:
Born: October 8 in Marshall, TX
Parents: Martin F. and Lottie Shaw Phillips (both deceased)
Spouse: Larry H. Simmons
Children:
- One daughter: Candace L. Simmons (an AKA)
- One son: Jeramie L. Simmons

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Delta Kappa Chapter (Bishop College) in 1970
Member of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter 1/1983 – 12/1998
Member of Omicron Alpha Omega Chapter January 1999 – December 2002, January 2006 – December 2006
Life Member – September 2006
Member of Phi Lambda Omega chapter 1/2003 – 12/2005
Boule' Member January 2007 – Present
Attended Clusters each year 1983 - 2010
Attended South Central Regional Conference - 1970
Attended South Eastern Regional Conferences 1983-2007, 2009-2013
Attended 10 Boules, 3 Leadership Conferences, and 1 National Founders' Day

Education:
Graduated H. B. Pemberton Sr. High School, Marshall, TX
B.S Degree in Sociology, Bishop College

Employment:
Social Security Administration
- 8/8/71-12/90—Social Insurance Representative
- 1/91-4/22/03—Operations Supervisor
- 4/23/03 -12/31/11—District Manager (Retired)

Other Interesting Facts:
- Committees (South Eastern Region) – Membership, Nominating, Resolutions (Chair), Standards, Protocol, Workshop Presenter on Leadership, Chapter Reports, Teenage Pregnancy, Duties & Responsibilities of Officers, Chapter Operations, Workshop Recorder, Workshop Facilitator
- Cluster V – Served as Area Cluster Coordinator for Cluster V, Steering Committee Chair of 60th SERC
- Cluster I – Operations Chair of 69th SERC, Registration Committee for 74th SERC, Boule' Chair of 81st SERC
- Chapter TZO – AKA Woman of the Year 1986, and 1991
- Chapter- Omicron Alpha Omega – Anti-Basileus, Grammateus, Anti-Grammateus, Epistoleus, Membership Chair, Constitution & Bylaws Chair, PIMS Scholarship Chair
- Chapter – Phi Lambda Omega – Pecunious Grammateus, EAF Chair, Membership Committee
- Personal – National Certified Swimming Official, Ocean Springs Education Foundation Board of Directors, Jackson County Civic Action Committee, Inc. Board of Directors, Recipient of Regional Commissioner's Award for the Atlanta Region, Member of Atlanta Region Management Association, Recipient of Social Security Commissioner's Citation (National Award), Mississippi's Representative for Field Office Managers

Reflections of Soror Barbara Irvin:

She served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter for two separate terms, from 1993 through 1996 and from 1999 through 2000.

When I think back on my terms as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter, my fondest memories are the numerous activities we did in connection with the young people on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I remember providing transportation for three high school students from the Carver Village Housing projects in Pascagoula, MS, to attend the ACT workshop given at St. John's Academy in Gulfport, MS for six weeks. The students were so appreciative and I really enjoyed interacting with them.

I also think back on participating in the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Program for the cities of Biloxi and Pascagoula, MS. During these programs, I delighted in being able to present Theta Zeta Omega's Annual Dreamer Awards. These awards recognized efforts in advancing the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King. In 1994, I presented the Dreamer Award to Rev. Phillip Heidelberg from Harrison County and to Mr. Melton Harris from Jackson County.

Also, in connection with the students from the Carver Village Housing projects, the chapter rededicated in 1994 the students' after-school facility as the Ivy AKAdemy. At this facility, members of AKA assisted the Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County in providing an after-school tutorial program from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday of each week during the school year.

During my administration, Theta Zeta Omega Chapter members prepared Black History exhibits for display at the Moss Point, Pascagoula, Gautier, and Ocean Springs Public Libraries. These were informative and helped us to stay grounded with the community.

Also, in 1993, I chaired a Parents Breakfast to help parents of Junior High and High School students in Jackson County, MS, become aware of the state's new academic programs, new testing procedures, and new graduation requirements.

There is solid truth in the saying "actions speak louder than words." I believe that AKA is a powerful, authentic role model for the youth of today. I am proud to be an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman exemplifying the examples that the organization set.

Barbara Jean McCreary Irvin

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

1993-1996 and 1999-2000

Vitals:
Born: March 12 in Mobile, AL
Parents:
- Father & Step-mother: Tommy and Jennifer Bradford (both deceased)
- Mother & Step-father: Rose and Harvey McCreary (both deceased)

Spouse: Alphonse Irvin (deceased)
Children: Three sons:
- Bryan Eugene Irvin
- Bruce Elliot Irvin
- Brad Emanuel Irvin

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Epsilon Upsilon Chapter (University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL in 1970
Member of Theta Pi Omega Chapter, New Jersey, 2003 – 2006
Attended most Clusters since 1990
Attended most South Eastern Regional Conferences since 1990
Attended numerous Boules, 3 Leadership Conferences, and 1 National Founders' Day
Also served as TZO Anti-Basileus, Tamiouchos, and Ivy Leaf Reporter

Education:
Graduated Central High School, Mobile, AL
B.S. Degree in Business from the University of South Alabama
Masters in General Business from Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI

Employment:
- Defense Contract Audit Agency, 1971-2006, retired from position of Deputy Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic Region
- Virginia College in Mobile, 2008-present, Adjunct Instructor, Business Department

Other Interesting Facts:
South Eastern Cluster V Coordinator
TZO Woman of the Year
Virginia college in Mobile Instructor of the Year, 2008, 2009, and 2012
Served on numerous chapter committees
Received William B. Petty Leadership Award from the Defense Contract Audit Agency
Served on numerous South Eastern Regional Committees

Reflections of Soror Rose Taylor-Autmon:

She served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter from 2001 through 2002.

The one most important factor that made me want to be a part of this great Sisterhood was my observation of Theta Zeta Omega working with other sororities and fraternities to provide after school tutoring in a low income housing project. Giving back to the community and to help others along the way has always been the desire of my heart. So when my then friend – now Soror signed me up to help with the tutoring I gladly accepted. This single act forged a closer bond between us and with many other Sorors.

Remembering 911: On Saturday, September 12, 2001, the Chapter was scheduled to hold its annual pageant. Following President Bush's address to the nation saying we should not allow this terrorist act to dictate our way of life, not to coward under their attacks but rather to carry on as usual, we held the Pageant planned. I believe this single act helped to solidify Alpha Kappa Alpha's leadership role in the community.

Rose Mary Taylor-Autmon

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

2001-2002

Vitals:
Born: October 31 in Clarksdale, MS
Parents: Emanuel Henry Jr. and Artency Grant (both deceased)
Guardians: Leo and Rosie Grant (both deceased)
Spouse: Gill Autmon
Children:

- Two daughters: Alicia C. and Itesha T. Taylor
- One son: Terrell M. Taylor

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1992
Held positions as Anti-basileus, Tamiouchos, and Membership Chairman
Attended several Clusters after 1992
Attended 4 South Eastern Regional Conferences; Mobile, AL, Nashville, TN, Jackson, MS and Biloxi, MS
Attended 3 Boules, and 2 Leadership Conferences

Education:
Graduated Allen Carver High School, Charleston, MS
B.S., Mississippi Valley State University

Employment:
Defense Contract Audit Agency

- Auditor/Accountant 1974 – 2000
- Technical Specialist 2000 – 2002
- Program Manager 2002 – 2006

Reflections of Soror Angela Jupiter-McCon

She served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter from 2003 through 2004.

As long as I can remember, I wanted to be a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. My initiation into Theta Zeta Omega (TZO) Chapter on April 26, 1998 was one of the most exciting moments of my life. When I joined TZO, several phenomenal sorors were there to mentor me. Sorors Margaret Bush, Barbara Irvin, Edith McCovery, Janine Peyton, and Lynda Simmons made sure I was always registered for conferences and had a hotel room. They made sure nothing hindered my way in obtaining knowledge about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Soror Barbara Irvin always jokes that every Soror she has sponsored has served as Chapter Basileus. Actually, this is true, much in part to her mentorship.

Sisterhood truly defines my memories of TZO. During the last year of my administration, I was pregnant with my third and final son. TZO surprised me with a baby shower. Since my initiation into TZO, I have obtained three degrees with the support and encouragement of my Sorors. In 2013, in order to complete my dissertation, I became a Boule' member. I truly appreciate my chapter members understanding and support.

I must say I have missed attending chapter meetings and participating in chapter programs. "Service to All Mankind" is the reason I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Since being initiated into TZO, several programs were developed and initiated with the help and support of the chapter. I am pleased to note the program nearest and dearest to my heart, The AKAettes Leadership Development Program will reach its 10 year milestone in April 2014.

In closing, TZO is my extended family. They are the sisters I never had. We have laughed together and cried together, but at the end of the day, we are sisters. I love my TZO sisters!

Angela Jupiter-McCon

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

2003-2004

Vitals:
Born: July 25 in New Orleans, LA
Parents: Ulysses Jupiter, Jr. and Sandra Bivens
Spouse: Reuben McCon
Children - Three sons:

- Reuben McCon, Jr.
- Neuman McCon
- Miles McCon

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1998
Member of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter 1998 – 2012
Boule Member January 2013 – Present
Attended Clusters and South Eastern Regional Conferences 1998-2011
(Except 1 year when in Huntsville, AL)
Also Served as TZO Anti-Basileus, Grammateus, Epistoleus, and Ivy Leaf Reporter

Education:
Graduated Pascagoula High School, Pascagoula, MS
B.S Degree in Chemistry-Pre-Med, Xavier University, New Orleans, LA
Associate Degree in Nursing, MS Gulf Coast Community College
B.S and MSN Degrees in Nursing Education, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL
Enrolled in PhD in Nursing Education & Administration Program, William Carey University, Hattiesburg, MS

Employment:

- Ocean Spring Hospital 1998-2011 (Surgical RN)
- MS Gulf Coast Community College 2007-July 2013 (Nursing Instructor)
- William Carey University – Tradition Campus (Assistant Professor of Nursing)

Other Interesting Facts:

- Served as the 2002 and 2003 Miss Teen AKA Pageant Chairman
- 2005-2006 Public Relations/Communication Chairman- launched the thetazetaomega.com webpage.
- In April 2004, the AKAettes Leadership Development Program was developed and initiated was under my administration.
- Developed the chapter anniversary luncheon
- launched the Sisters of the Vine chapter newsletter and Ivy and Pride Publication
- Served as the awards committee chairman and the health committee chairman. Formed collaborative programs as the health committee chairman– SIDS Grant, Saving Our Sisters, and the MLK Health, Business, and Legal Fair, Community Impact Grant.
- On June 12, 2010, with the aid of the chapter, the MS Black Nurses Association, MS Gulf Coast Battered Women's Shelter, Salvation Army, and MGCCC – JC; the Heel the Sole Walk 1.5 K Race to Promote Domestic Violence Awareness was launched.
- Served as the 2011 AKAettes Operations Chairman.
- Served as the 2011 and 2012 Chairman of the A Koastal Affair Pretty in Pink HATS Breast Cancer Awareness Program.
- 2000 AKA Woman of the Year
- 2000 Regional Conference Decorations Chairman
- 2009 Regional Conference Awards Banquet Chairman
- 2011 MS Statewide Cluster Logistics Chairman
- 2012 Queen Ivy & Pearl V

Reflections of Soror Viria May:

She served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter during Hurricane Katrina, from 2005 through 2006.

The 2005-2006 administration started like any other. Sorority members were busy planning upcoming chapter, regional and international activities. With great anticipation, Theta Zeta Omega was awaiting the sorority's 100th anniversary celebration. The chapter was to celebrate its 40th year anniversary. The membership continued to be at approximately 40 members.

Making plans for International Founders' Day, on June 25, 2005, chapter members went to Jackson, Mississippi for the planning meeting. Chapters from around the state and region were in attendance. TZO wanted to be a part of this meeting and be a part of the history making event.

Members went to Montgomery, Alabama in March 2005 to participate in the South Eastern Regional Conference and invite South Eastern members to Mobile, Alabama for Regional Conference in 2006. Problems in construction would delay Cluster V hosting the Regional Conference in Mobile. Alternate plans were made to move the Regional location from Mobile to Memphis, Tennessee for the 2006 meeting.

Theta Zeta Omega was preparing to come back from the summer vacation. Little did they know how their community and their lives would be changed. After two hurricane threats (near misses to the Mississippi Gulf Coast), Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29th in southwest Hancock County near Pearlington, Mississippi. 'Katrina' was no lady! She came into the Gulf Coast punching, kicking and with a very loud voice, making herself known as the costliest storm in American history.

After the storm had passed, the Gulf Coast surveyed the damage. Sorors had completely lost homes, had severe wind and water damage (had to rebuild) and minor damage. Two major coastal bridges linking the three coastal counties (Hancock, Harrison and Jackson) were totally destroyed. Roadways were damaged. Accesses to several areas were restricted by disaster recovery and civil defense personnel. With membership which spanned three counties, communication was very difficult.

Sorors began to find each other and spread the news of how each had fared this devastating event. As they heard from sorors who returned to find only a foundation or partial walls of what a few days before had been their homes, sorors felt blessed to have wind damage. Other sorors had up to 10 feet of water in their homes. Sorors offered their skills as counselors, social workers, educators and business leaders to assist sorors and members of the community.

After 10 days, Regional Director Cynthia Finch was able to contact the chapter president for status of the members. With limited communications, only a few had been able to check in. With the

upcoming Cluster meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, the Regional Director made arrangements for any soror wanting to attend to come (although they would miss the registration deadline).

Soror Schermonique Taylor was on a business trip and was stranded in Oklahoma City, OK, trying to get home to determine the status of her home. (It had major damage and she had to rebuild.) To her surprise, the sorors of the Mid-Western Region (led by 25th Regional Director Brenda Lewis Mumford) came to her rescue. They took her in as a member of the family, establishing close friendships that will last a long time (would we expect anything else of an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman). With only the possessions in her suitcase, these sorors made sure that she had everything she needed until she was able to return home.

At Cluster on October 1, 2005 (less than 5 weeks after Hurricane Katrina), 14 members of the chapter were able to attend cluster. With glad hearts, they surrounded themselves with the business of the South Eastern Region and Alpha Kappa Alpha. The 100th year celebration was on everyone's mind. Each soror was eagerly waiting the 2006 International Founders' Day, one of the major events of the 100th year anniversary celebration. South Eastern was proud to host this event and the members of Theta Zeta Omega wanted to be a part of that celebration.

But before they could celebrate the sorority's anniversary, there was still work to be done on the Gulf Coast. One of the chapter's holiday service projects was to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. Why should this year be any different? There were people along the coast that were still living in trailers, trying to pick up the pieces of their lives. Twenty-two sorors rang the bell at Singing River Mall in Gautier, Mississippi and Crossroads Mall, Gulfport, Mississippi (Jan 2006 chapter minutes). Imagine the joy these women felt when people along the coast gave generously. Without hesitation, people who had just endured so much gave to help someone who was less fortunate than themselves, proving that 'Service to all Mankind' is not limited to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members.

In January 2006, 13 members of Theta Zeta Omega attended the Founders' Day celebrations, supporting the anniversary celebration in support of the International Program Chair, Soror Juanita Sims Doty (Jan 2006 chapter minutes). They worked and attended the health fair at the Jackson Medical Mall. They were in attendance at and assisted with all of the events that weekend, including the unveiling of the markers celebrating the Mississippi Health Project, one of the Sorority's major programs in the 1950's and 1960's. This was a special event, as Hurricane Katrina interrupted the distribution of materials for the registration. Once again, the members of the sorority allowed members along the Mississippi Gulf Coast to register after the deadline.

As they continued to rebuild and repair their homes, they also continued doing the business of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Twenty-one sorors attended regional conference in Memphis, Tennessee (April chapter minutes). Five sorors attended the 62nd Boule in Detroit, MI, four of whom were in the process of repairing or rebuilding their homes. Sickle Cell Anemia, Breast Cancer Awareness and HIV/AIDS awareness are ongoing components of the chapter's program. These programs are

supported each year. Ever changing to support the international programs, TZO changed the concept of its A Koastal Affair event (fund raiser event later turned into a program event). During 2010, the event showcased and provided financial support for HBCUs. During 2011 and 2012, the theme of the program was breast cancer awareness. Partnering with the Upsilon Chi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the chapter provided information on Sister Network and Pink Heart Funds, programs that support breast cancer and other cancer patients/survivors. The partnership with the Pink Heart Fund continued after the event with the sharing of resources, talents and information.

In July 2007, members of Theta Zeta Omega and Upsilon Chi Omega led the region's efforts to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Gulfport, Mississippi. With a monetary donation from the international office and the south eastern region, Alpha Kappa Alpha sponsored a home for a family of 6. With the devastation along the coast, SE led the charge to assist at least one family during the Leadership Conference in July in New Orleans, LA. Members of chapters in Mississippi came out to assist in the construction of the house. Four of the former International Presidents (Dr. Matelia B. Grays, Faye B. Bryant, Dr. Eva Evans and Norma S. White) were in attendance on July 17, 2007, along with the International President, Barbara McKinzie, for the home dedication. To see the pleasure on all of the attendees' faces was worth the efforts to bring the day to this point.

How is 100 years of existence celebrated? By building the anticipation for the event month by month, event by event is how Alpha Kappa Alpha does it. Regional conferences were moved from March to October in 2007. More than 1900 sorors were in attendance at the South Eastern Regional Conference. 24 sorors from TZO made the trek to Nashville, Tennessee.

Celebrating 100 years became a month long event. TZO scheduled a Centennial Tea on October 6, 2007 and day of worship on October 7, 2007. These events led up to the regional conference. (TZO Centennial Celebration Flyer)

Leading up to the conference, sorors were recommended from around the region to be soror of the month. Special recognition was to be given to 3 sorors during each day of the conference. To the surprise and delight of TZO members, the first soror of the day was recognized for her leadership in building the Habitat for Humanity House in Gulfport, Mississippi, Soror Stephanie Barnes Taylor. From the conference report, chapter members screamed and jumped up like they won a new car! Members of TZO and Upsilon Chi Omega were also recognized for their effort in this major undertaking (75th South Eastern Regional Conference Delegate Report).

During Juanita Sims Doty's administration, an initiative was presented to members of the South Eastern Region – Investing in our Universities – Historically Black Colleges and Universities (IOU-HBCUs) (The Heart & Spirit of South Eastern, Winter 2007 edition). Each chapter was requested to select HBCUs in the region to support through donations. Theta Zeta Omega embraced this initiative and selected Mississippi Valley State University (Centennial HBCU Gospel Brunch Program Booklet, Sunday, March 16, 2008, Advocates for Black Colleges).

Additional programs were Go Red for Women, Breast Cancer Walk, Sickle Cell Tea (winner of several awards), March of Dimes fundraisers, HIV/AIDS Walk (Bonnie Washington, chapter member, was chair), Center for Non-violence support and local food banks. Partnering with UCO in Gulfport and South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, first HIV/AIDS Walk was a successful event.

During these years, the chapter has celebrated Founders' Days and Chapter Anniversaries. Numerous sorority guests and family members joined chapter members in making these events special. During these events, community and chapter members were recognized for their contributions to the Mississippi Coast. Chapter members were also recognized by Gulf Coast organizations. Carolyn Jennings received the award for NAACP Volunteer of the Year. Barbara J. Thomas received the Gulf Pines Girl Scout Council Community Service and President's Cabinet Awards. She also was recognized by the Gulfport Mayor and City Council with a proclamation for support, assistance and cooperation toward enhancing the quality of life in Gulfport, MS.

Realizing that the chapter had to change and grow if they wanted to compete for the limited funds along the Coast, The TZO Ivy Foundation was formed in 2009. Stephanie Barnes Taylor was the driving force in the formation of the foundation. It was designed to assist the members in securing more resources for the programs sponsored by the chapter.

Viria May

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

2005-2006

Vitals:
Born: May 31 in Fayette, AL
Parents: Cassie Franks and Zella Franks (deceased)
Children:

- Three sons:
  - Brian May (deceased)
  - Jeffery May
  - Jason May

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1988
Attended 5 Boules, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2010
Attended Clusters each year 1989 - 2011
Attended South Eastern Regional Conferences 1990-2012
Attended 2 Leadership Conferences, Puerto Rico, and Las Vegas

Education:
Graduated Fayette High School, Fayette, AL
B.S. Degree in Accounting from Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL

Employment:

- Naval Ocean Research & Development Activity, Systems Accountant
- Naval Oceanographic and Atmospheric Research Laboratory, System Accountant
- Naval Research Laboratory, Contract Specialist, Program Administrative Specialist and Administrative Officer

Other Interesting Facts:

- In addition to Basileus, have held numerous officer positions in the Chapter: Tamiouchos, EAF Captain, Standards Chair, Grammateus, Parliamentarian, and Epistoleus
- Served on the Chapter's first Founders' Day Committee
- Served as the 2000 Regional Conference Tamiouchos
- Served as a Cluster Grammateus/Recording Secretary
- Implemented packages for workshop recorders to insure receipt of cluster information
- Was selected as the TZO Woman of the Year twice
- Served on numerous Chapter Committees: Standards, Fundraiser, Budget, Constitution, Membership, and Executive
- Was Basileus during Hurricane Katrina

Reflections of Soror Stephanie Barnes Taylor:

She served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter from 2007 through 2010

2007 began with the end in mind. I wanted to leave the chapter even better than before at the end of my administration. We got to work right away to reorganize, restructure, and revise our chapter operations. After all, the chapter evaluations were on the horizon. 2007 had several firsts, as did my entire administration. We published our first newsletter, began a formal strategic planning process for the chapter, began our AKA Family Picnic following the June meeting (this was also a reactivation event), began featuring the Soror of the Month, and started Sisters in A.K.A. (Acquiring Knowledge Always), our chapter book club. We introduced a new fundraiser, A Koastal Affair, which featured the Moss Point High School Jazz Band and recognized two outstanding community leaders. We created two new leadership positions in the chapter, Pecunious Grammateus and Historian. We incorporated TZO Ivy Foundation, a non-profit corporation. This separate legal entity was incorporated to be the philanthropic arm of Theta Zeta Omega and allow the eventual ownership of a chapter house. The biggest first of all was when Theta Zeta Omega partnered with Upsilon Chi Omega to host the first International Project on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The corporate office sponsored a Habitat for Humanity home in Gulfport, Mississippi. This enabled the chapter to build a home and lifelong friendship with the Willis family. I was honored to serve as the chairman for this event. Sorors from all over Mississippi came to volunteer their time and sweat to building the home. It was truly a magnificent day when the Directorate came to dedicate the home! I received the surprise of my life when I was recognized as the First Soror of the Day at the 75th South Eastern Regional Conference in Nashville, TN. This was a true honor. My hard work in chairing the Habitat project was awarded with an appointment as the 77th South Eastern Regional Conference Co-Chairman for the 2009 conference in Mobile, Alabama. 2007 and my administration started off with a blast!!!

2008 began with the excitement of preparations for our Centennial Celebration!!! All of the TZO Sorors were abuzz with anticipation for the convergence of Pink and Green in our nation's capital. In the meantime, the chapter was busy at work serving the community and preparing to host the Regional Conference in Mobile, Alabama. We began another fundraiser, The Ivy and Pearl Affair, a charity ball. I was honored to be crowned the first Queen Ivy and Pearl. This fundraiser was a major success and enabled the chapter to increase our scholarship awards as well as fund our service projects. A major community service initiative undertaken in 2008 was the collaboration with local sororities and WJZD to host Saving Our Sisters. A forum focused on the prevention of teenage pregnancy. We

involved our AKAettes Leadership Development Program participants in this very impactful program. We initiated the Junior Responders Program in collaboration with several community agencies. We created two new service awards in honor of our Charter members who are Ivies beyond the Wall, the Inaugural Sara Dunn Entrepreneur Award and the Inaugural Adrian Croutch Community Service Award. We presented both of these awards at our A Koastal Affair. The Centennial Boule was truly a once in a lifetime experience for all members of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Theta Zeta Omega had record attendance at Boule with 31 sorors attending! The experience was truly magical! I was honored to be among the party of sorors accompanying the Directorate to the gravesite of Ethel Hedgeman Lyle at Mount Lawn Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I was blessed to a part of this memorial tribute to our glorious founder. The highlight of the Fifth Plenary Session was when Theta Zeta Omega received an International Program Award. We were recognized along with Upsilon Chi Omega for an ESP-Centennial Program Achievement Award for Excellence in Implementing The Economic Growth of the Black Family Platform for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Habitat for Humanity Project that built a home for the Willis Family in Gulfport. We initiated 14 new members in October. The year culminated when we passed our Chapter Evaluation!

2009 was déjà vu all over again. I began my second term as Basileus! I never thought that my two year term would turn into four. My second term was just as busy as the first. The chapter attained a Life Membership in the NAACP. All of the chapter members worked hard during the 77th South Eastern Regional Conference as one of the hostess chapters. We had several chapter members in leadership roles during the conference: Soror Stephanie Barnes Taylor, Conference Co-Chairman, Courtesies & Gifts, Soror Angelin Thompson, Chairman; Soror Marion Coleman, Co-Chairman; Information Booths, Soror Emily Gaddis, Chairman; Soror Carolyn Jennings, Co-Chairman; Program/Souvenir Booklet, Soror Barbara Irvin, Chairman; Awards Banquet, Soror Angela Jupiter-McCon, Chairman, HBCU Gospel Brunch, Soror Margaret Bush, Chairman and Soror Bonnie Washington, Co-Chairman; Rededication, Soror Schermonique Taylor, Chairman and Exhibits, Soror Tanya Haynes, Chairman. We also began our chapter retreat as a way to reconnect and rekindle our sisterhood. This event was a major success! Our 2008 MIP class began a project of their own, the Pink Pages, a directory featuring women owned businesses along the Gulf Coast. I closed the year out serving as Luncheon Chairman for the Mississippi Statewide Cluster.

2010 was the beginning of the end of my term. It began with the greatest honor and gift of all, Soror Matelia B. Grays, 18th Supreme Basileus, served as speaker for our Founders' Day program. It was truly special to have our former Supreme Basileus share a special

message with the chapter and our guests in commemoration of our Founders. The chapter initiated a new service project, Heel the Sole Run, a race in high heels to raise awareness about domestic violence. This was a successful collaboration with other women organizations, the Salvation Army, and the Gulf Coast Center for Non-Violence. The proceeds from the race were used to assist a former victim of domestic abuse and her family to start their lives anew. In response to our chapter surveys, we activated the Basilei Council to coordinate leadership training for the chapter. The Council began presenting during chapter meetings and held a Leadership Training Seminar for sorors interested in running for office or serving as committee chairmen. The combined wisdom of our former Basilei was fertile ground for outstanding knowledge about leadership and chapter and sorority operations. I was honored to speak at the 35th Anniversary Banquet for Iota Kappa, University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. It was an honor to commemorate this wonderful celebration. I was very honored to create a torch and gavel to be used at the 78th South Eastern Regional Conference Passing the Torch Ceremony for the newly elected regional director. It was painstaking work, but I enjoyed the task of creating a piece of South Eastern history. During the summer, when reading the Ivy Leaf I saw a request for presentation proposals for the 2010 Boule workshops. I submitted a proposal and was selected to present, "Know What to Say and How to Say It," a presentation on effective communication. It was very rewarding to present to sorors at a national conference. Although it was a great experience, my tenure as Basileus came to an end in December. I was very proud to pass the gavel to my soror, Tenesha D. Batiste. I am confident that she will take Theta Zeta Omega to even greater heights. Serving as Basileus is not for the faint-hearted, but it is truly a joy and honor to serve this great sorority in this way. I wouldn't trade my experience for anything. I set out to make the chapter better, but in turn this experience made me better. It made me a better soror, a better leader, and a better person. Thank you, Theta Zeta Omega for trusting me with serving as your Basileus!

Stephanie Barnes Taylor

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

2007-2010

Vitals:
Born: September 15
Spouse: Dr. Jerrod Taylor
Children: - Two sons:
- Nicholas
- Marcus

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Lambda Eta Chapter at Mississippi State University in 1991
Transferred membership to Gamma Omicron at Tougaloo College in 1994.
Transferred to Theta Zeta Omega in 2004.
Served on various Chapter committees and was Anti-Basileus from 2005 - *2006.*
Attended numerous Boules, Clusters, South Eastern Regional Conferences
Attended Leadership Conferences, the most recent in Montreal, Canada in 2013

Education:
Graduated summa cum laude from Tougaloo College in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English.
Received her law degree from Harvard Law School in 1997.

Employment:
Chief Compliance Officer of Singing River Health System in Jackson County, Mississippi.

Other Interesting Facts:
- Received the Spirit of Sisterhood Award for Faithful and Valuable Service Rendered to the Sisterhood of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 2006.
- Was Chairman of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Habitat for Humanity Project in 2007, a national chapter service project in connection with the 2007 Leadership Seminar.
- Was appointed to the South Eastern Regional Heritage Committee by Centennial Supreme Basileus, Dr. Barbara A. McKinzie in 2007.
- Was honored as the Inaugural Recipient of the "Soror of the Day" Honor at the 75th South Eastern Regional Conference in Nashville, Tennessee conferred upon her by the Centennial South Eastern Regional Director, Soror Juanita Sims Doty.
- Was appointed by Soror Doty, to co-chair the 77th South Eastern Regional Conference in Mobile, AL in March 2009.
- Served as Luncheon Chairman for the 2009 Mississippi Statewide Cluster in Jackson, Mississippi in December 2009.
- Served as co-chairman for the Pass the Torch Ceremony during the 78th South Eastern Regional Conference. That service included creating a symbolic torch to be used for future generations of South Eastern Regional Directors.
- Served as co-chairman for the tribute to Soror Juanita Sims Doty during the South Eastern Regional Luncheon at the 2010 Boule in St. Louis.
- Created an ESP Parade to celebrate all of the highlights of the region from 2007 – 2010.
- During the 2010 Boule workshops, presented a workshop, "Know What to Say and How to Say It," a presentation on effective communication.
- Served as Workshop Chairman for the 2010 South Eastern Region Mississippi Statewide Cluster.

Reflections of Soror Tenesha Batiste:

She served as Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter from 2011 through 2012.

On January 1, 2011, the new administration sent an email to each of the chapter members introducing the theme, which was Manifesting Service & Sisterhood through Love, Commitment and Each Other. Along with this email our revamped website was launched. For two years, the administration focused on service and sisterhood through national initiatives and local projects serving all mankind. Founders' Day 2011 was observed at Union Baptist Church in Pascagoula, MS which was the home church of our chapter's charter member, Soror Norma Caples who remains an active and integral part of our chapter. We are blessed to have not one Norma but two Normas, who are charter members (Soror Norma Caples and Soror Norma Graham). We worshipped together at Soror Norma Caples' church that morning and gave a $500 donation to the church's scholarship fund. We had a private lunch together and completed the day of celebration at our Founders' Day Program. We were elated to have both charter members as speakers for our Founders' Day Program. We also recognized our Woman of the Year Award to a most deserving soror, Alchar Jackson. We acknowledged our Dreamer Award Recipients, Mr. Jeremiah Norman from Harrison County, and Mayor Aneice Liddell from Jackson County.

The new administration developed the Monday Motivational thought program, where each soror was responsible for delivering a motivational to all chapter members each Monday of the week. We looked forward to the motivational because we never knew what to expect. From stories, to songs, to poems, sorors were able to express themselves and their love to our sisterhood in their own way through the Monday Motivational.

Our biggest fundraiser is The Ivy & Pearl Affair (TIPA). It is a charity ball in Jackson County, MS, where we expect around 800 guests from all over the Mississippi Gulf Coast to come and enjoy an evening of dancing and dining. During this administration, the 5th Ivy & Pearl Affair won the designation of being the most successful financially. The proceeds from this ball allow us to continue to give several scholarships to high school students along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We have a thriving Leadership Development Program for high school girls, AKAettes, which is a very important program for our chapter. Many of these girls go on to become sorors and come back to the chapter to work with this program.

One of the programs, that I am most proud of during this administration, is the Senior Citizens Outreach Project in Harrison County, chaired by Soror Barbara Thomas. We have become a beacon of light and excitement to the seniors at the Isaiah Fredericks Senior

Citizens Home. Our chapter members diligently invest time and resources to the senior citizens through computer training. This program has changed the way of life of our seniors and continues to have a great impact on the community. We are constantly being recognized for our work on this project.

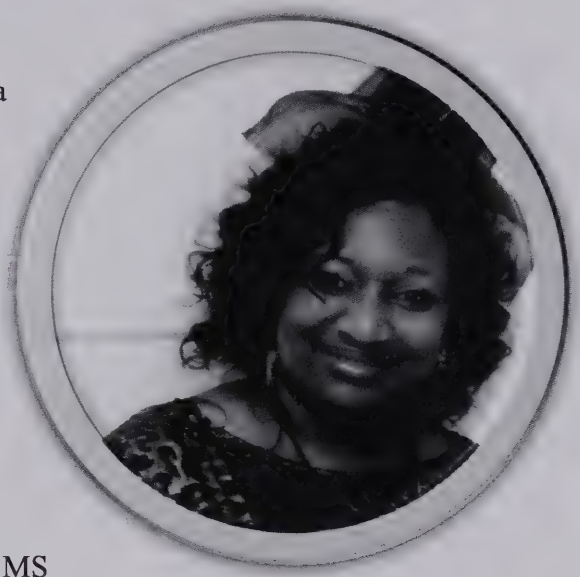
Another program that I am most proud of is our Caring Hearts initiative. This initiative is chaired by Soror Margaret Bush and Soror Edith McCovery. This project started out being funded out of their own pockets and later the chapter voted to make it one of our chapter programs. The Caring Hearts project is for our chapter members who are ages 70 and above. This project ensures monthly phone calls, visits, happies, and all types of gifts to our 70 and above club. Our chapter is made up of member ages 22-92 and sometimes our older sorors can easily feel left out with how technology has taken over the world. This gives them direct contact in a form that they are comfortable with. They each look forward to their monthly happies.

A Koastal Affair is another wonderful signature event that our chapter is well known for throughout the MS Gulf Coast. During this administration, the focus was on breast cancer and featured a hats fashion show in our Hats Off to Breast Cancer theme. Additionally, the other A Koastal Affair's theme Fight like a Girl was very instrumental and meant a lot to our community and to our participants. We have given awards to local entrepreneurs and philanthropists at this event.

Tenesha Danielle Batiste

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

2011-2012



Vitals:
Born: June 19 in Pascagoula, MS
Parents: Louis James Taylor (deceased) and Edna Taylor
Spouse: Pastor Tony Batiste

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Gamma Omicron Chapter in 2003
Attended 3 Boules, 2008, 2010, and 2012
Attended several Clusters and South Eastern Regional Conferences
Attended Leadership Conferences, the most recent in Montreal, Canada

Education:
Graduated Moss Point High School, Moss Point, MS
B.A. Degree from Tougaloo College
MBA Degree from American Intercontinental College
Attended the University of Phoenix

Employment:
- Director of People Development, Singing River Health System in Jackson County, Mississippi

Other Interesting Facts:
Youngest Chapter Basileus
2007 Soror of the Year
Queen Ivy & Pearl IV
Received Theta Zeta Omega's Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Award in Leadership in 2010

Reflections of Soror Schermonique Taylor:

She serves as the current Basileus of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter, for the period, 2013 through 2014.

Being a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has forever changed my life. It has given me opportunities to share with so many great women on so many levels. It is hard to summarize my almost ten (10) year experience in such few words. But I will try!

Becoming a member includes providing service for a lifetime. I have been working for TZO and AKA from day one (1). That was always my focus. I learned the operations of the chapter. I started working on committees. That work lead to being a committee chairman. I found my niche with being the Grammateus. In this position, I was able to contribute my talents without necessarily being present for every meeting due to our chapter utilizing conference calls. My career requires that I travel but I was always able to call in for the meeting. I loved it!

As the Grammateus, I was able to be aware of all of the chapter operations because all of the reports have to flow through this position. When I discovered that this could be an overwhelming position if one is not organized, I found that it would be best to begin recording the information on my laptop during the meetings. I could type faster than I could write. And, it offered spelling and grammar checks along the way. This is also when I decided that I would require all reports be sent to me electronically and dispersed to the chapter the same way. I had just become part of chapter history with that one move!

Showing my diligence and love for the chapter gained the attention of other Sorority members. It was so great that the chapter elected to award me with the highest honor that is bestowed on anyone of the chapter, Woman of the Year 2010. I felt the love from the chapter that I was expressing to it each and every day. There is not any other award that I will hold closer than that one.

My continued work has not stopped at Grammateus. During my lifelong journey in Alpha Kappa Alpha, I have traveled to Anchorage, Alaska as the lone Soror to represent our wonderful chapter. It was an experience and privilege to be able to make that trip. I will always go for AKA and TZO. I decided after that to become the Anti-Basileus of the chapter and now, I am the esteemed Basileus. At this point, I feel like I have come full circle in the chapter. When reflecting on this journey, it has been an overall smooth ride with minor turbulence along the way. If I had to do it again, the only thing I would change would be to become a member a whole lot sooner. I LOVE MY AKA!!!

Schermonique Danielle Taylor

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Basileus

2013-2014

Vitals:
Born: August 30 in Leakesville, MS
Parents:
- Mother & Father: Barbara and Randy Viverette

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 2003
Attended all Boules since initiation, (2004 – 2012)
Attended several Clusters and South Eastern Regional Conferences
Attended four Leadership Conferences, the most recent in Montreal, Canada
Served three terms as Chapter Grammateus
Was the 2013 Queen Ivy and Pearl VI.

Education:
Graduated Moss Point High School, Moss Point, MS
B.S. Degree in Microbiology from Mississippi State University in 2000
MBA emphasis in Health Systems Management from Grand Canyon University in 2012

Employment:
- Magnolia Junior High School – Biology Teacher (2000-2002)
- CPSI – Senior Clinical Support Representative (2002-2009)
- HMS – Clinical Staff Coordinator and Senior Clinical Consultant II (2009-2012)
- Rezult Technology – Implementation Consultant and Corporate Trainer for LifePoint Hospitals (2012-Present)

Other Interesting Facts:
- Woman of the Year 2010
- Miss Teen AKA Pageant Chairperson 2005
- AKAettes Leadership Development Inauguration Committee
- Centennial Chapter Grammateus
- Regional Conference 2009 (Mobile, AL) Rededication Chairman
- Mississippi Statewide Cluster Rededication Chairman 2011 (Biloxi, MS)
- Brought the chapter into the Technological Age with the introduction of electronic records keeping. This included recording the minutes and dispersing reports to the chapter.

Basilei Council

The Basilei Council was established during the administration of Stephanie Barnes Taylor. The council consists of former Basilei of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter. The goals and purposes of the council are as follows:

1. Serve as a vehicle to provide basic knowledge and structure to the chapter and its officers
2. Incorporate sister relations in all activities.
3. Provide mentoring and support to all chapter officers and committees.
4. Encourage and support sorors in their pursuit of chapter, regional and national offices and/or committees.
5. Any other duties deemed appropriate by the Basileus.

The current members of the council are :

Margaret Bush, Chairman
Schermonique Taylor
Tenesha Batiste
Barbara Irvin
Stephanie Barnes Taylor
Viria May
Carolyn Rushing
Angela Jupiter McCon

The Council has implemented the following chapter activities:

- Establishment of the Caring Hearts Committee to honor and to provide service to sorors over the age of 70.
- Training for prospective officers and chapter members. One of our major activities was entitled "Just a Sister Away". This activity focused on sisterly relations and emphasized we can empower sisters to help us in solving problems.
- Hosted a booking sign for Stephanie Barnes Taylor - Leading Your Life to Excellence.
- Planning of the Installation of Officers ceremony.
- Development of a Committee Resource Guide.

By Soror Margaret Bush, Chairman, Basilei Council

CHAPTER PROGRAMS

Timeless Services on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

By Theresa Haynes and Carolyn Rushing

Service to Mankind is the heart of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Since chartering in 1965, Theta Zeta Omega continues the heartbeat through various programs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast as listed below:

National Targets

- Observance of Founders' Day
- Rededication Ceremonies
- Initiation
- Chapter Evaluations
- Reclaim, Recruit, and Retain Membership Programs
- AKA Connection
- Regional Scrapbook
- Scholarship Awards
- Reactivation of Sorors into the Chapter
- AKA Woman of the Year
- Summer Reading Program
- Scholastic Awards
- Black History Displays–Coastal Libraries
- World Food Day
- Tea with graduating Seniors on the Gulf Coast
- Clean-Up Campaign
- Recognizing the Black Family
- Volunteer and Christmas cheer at VA Hospital
- United Negro College Fund
- National Education Foundation, National Council of Negro Women
- Urban League
- Pan –Hellenic Council
- Dolls for Tots (Sorors dressed dolls)
- Seasonal Baskets for the Needy
- Easter egg hunt
- Senior Citizen bingo
- Adopt a Friend

- Sisterhood week
- March of Dimes, American Cancer Society
- Fundraising: Talent Show, Little Miss AKA, Fashionetta, Garage Sale, Candy Sale
- Sponsored Tougaloo College Choir
- Delegate Representation: Clusters, Regionals, and Boules
- March 29, 1973: Held meeting for the purpose of Reactivating sorors into Theta Zeta Omega, Biloxi, MS

Theta Zeta Omega has participated and served in various programs throughout the 1980's until the present. Listed below are some of the programs our local chapter implemented during the 80s and 90s.

- Black Heritage Project - The chapter participated in the Carver Negro High School reunion parade, where Soror Norma Caples and Emma Wells were honored.
- Cub Scout Pack #497 - The chapter assisted a group of 10 boys ages seven through ten.
- Sponsored Girls Scout Troop 266.
- During Senior Citizens month - The chapter participated in First Baptist Church of Moss Point Senior Citizens Recognition Day. Sorors decorated the fellowship hall, donated a cake and pinned all the seniors. Two of our Sorors Norma Caples and Emma Wells were honored at the program.
- Black History displays were set up at local libraries along the Mississippi Gulf Coast during Black History Month.
- The World Community - The chapter donated $250.00 to Africare.
- After Hurricane Andrew - The chapter sent hurricane supplies to sorors in Miami, FL, Morgan City, LA, and Lafayette, LA.
- AKA Water Day - Donations were collected from each chapter member. The donations were given to Fishes and Loaves Food Kitchen and Feed My Sheep Kitchen.
- Theta Zeta Omega Chapter's Ivy AKAdemy provided tutorial services for students in Carver Village Housing Project in Pascagoula, MS.
- ACT workshop sponsored for high school students.
- A summer reading program and Career Day activities were included in each year's program. Chapter members volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club, Job Corp, and 28th Street Elementary.
- First Baptist Church Math tutorial program - Sorors provided tutoring for elementary students and high school students.
- The chapter awarded three $1,000 scholarships to three local high school seniors.
- The chapter sponsored eleven Junior High School Students in a Miss Teen AKA Pageant where workshops were conducted over a six week period in the areas of career awareness, high school and college preparation, computer training and the Partners In Education. The

chapter awarded ten sixth grade students with math trophies for averages 95 and above at 28th Street Elementary.

- PIMS scholarships awarded to LaToya Hankins and Anika Bush for $500.00.
- Senior Citizens "Showers of Love "Program - sorors collaborated with St. Mark United Methodist Church in Gulfport, MS gifts were presented and a reception followed.
- The chapter attended the NAACP banquet and received a Humanitarian Award.
- Theta Zeta Omega chapter collaborated with Restoration Advisory Board & Naval Construction Battalion Center (Navy) this board addresses environmental problems that could possibly affect the health of local citizens in the community.
- Woman's History Month - a book drive was conducted in March. A black owned bookstore ordered books that were distributed to schools, churches and local libraries.
- Black Dollar Month - Sorors purchased various items and supported coast wide black business during Black Dollar Month.
- Provided Rust College in Holly Springs, MS with a UNCF donation of $500.00.
- AKA's On Your Side Educational Stabilization - wrote legislative letters to Mississippi Congress addressing bill #2926 on education.
- Education for Survivorship Job Corp - sent shower curtains to the Cleveland Job Corp Center along with an annual donation.
- Sisterly Relations Health Committee presented an aerobic exercise class for all sorors along with a Health Fair. Cancer Institute passed out information and sorors were able to sign up for the Bone Marrow donor registry.
- We held a fundraiser and donated $210 to the Michael Jones fund. Jones was suffering from a rare form of Leukemia and need a bone marrow transplant.
- The chapter held a blood drive on December 12, 1992.
- Voter registration consisted of encouraging people to register and to vote. We had a telephone network tree with each soror responsible for calling ten people encouraging them to register and/or vote.
- Dreamer Award community services were conducted in support of maintaining the dream of Dr. Martin L. King. The award was presented to Lucimarian Roberts of Harrison County and Mr. R. L. Seaborn of Jackson County.
- Supporting other Greeks - attended Delta Sigma Theta Day program.
- Chapter donated a fruit tray to Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for their Mississippi Leadership Conference.
- The chapter purchased an ad to support Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Following our tradition of great accomplishments, from 2000 to the present, we began new programs each year. Below is a summary of our achievements:

- ***Initiated the Junior Responders Program in 2008***. This program was started to implement the Alpha Kappa Alpha First Responder Service Program under Platform III. This also gave

us an opportunity to work with our Ivy AKAdemy site at Kreole Elementary. The program also gave us an opportunity to work with other fraternities and public agencies.

- ***Introduced "The Ivy and Pearl Affair," a charity ball in 2008***. This ball was introduced to serve as the major fundraiser for the chapter as well as provide an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of the chapter.
- ***Introduced "The Pink Ice Ball," a fundraiser and debutante-style ball for the AKAettes***. This ball was developed to raise money for the program as well as present the talented young ladies to the community. In 2010, the ball raised enough funds to give every senior member a scholarship.
- ***Published "Sisters of the Vine,"*** a monthly newsletter that keeps all members connected with each other in 2007. This newsletter was established to provide a formal communication tool for chapter events as well as to disseminate information about AKAnomics, positive motivation, self-improvement. The newsletter also featured a monthly Basileus Message designed to inspire and motivate sorors.
- ***Launched a website, www.thetazetaomega.com, in 2008.*** The website was established to improve soror communication as well as to inform the public about the service provided by Theta Zeta Omega and chapter events.
- ***Published a membership brochure*** aimed at informing inactive sorors about Theta Zeta Omega in 2008. The membership brochure was designed to have standard written information that could be shared with an inactive soror as an information tool.
- ***Chartered Sisters in A.K.A., Acquiring Knowledge Always, Book Club,*** a monthly meeting to discuss books and get to know each other better in 2007. This book club was begun to serve as a sisterly relations activity to foster sisterhood among the sorors.
- ***Incorporated TZO Ivy Foundation, a non-profit corporation in 2007.*** This separate legal entity was incorporated to be the philanthropic arm of Theta Zeta Omega and enable us to obtain grants that can be used to increase the service provided in the community.
- ***Published the Pink Pages,*** a directory of women-owned businesses on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, in 2009.
- ***Sponsored the creation of an Imagination Station at Nichols Elementary in 2009.*** The Imagination Station has a Broadcasting Station, A Winn Dixie Grocery Store, and a Peoples Bank. This station helps the students to learn the basics of money management and purchasing necessities.
- ***Donated a new computer and printer to the Frances Fredericks Senior Center in Gulfport, Mississippi***. The chapter also began a computer literacy class for the seniors in attendance. This eight-week program is in its third class. We are very proud of our 94 year old graduate of the class.

- ***Held a chapter retreat in August 2009*** to foster sisterly relations and to provide motivational topics to inspire sorors to be better members of Alpha Kappa Alpha and better women overall.
- ***Held the AKAettes Mother-Daughter Tea in August 2009*** to honor the members of the AKAette Leadership Development Program and their mothers.
- ***Began the TLC babysitting service*** offered by members of the AKAettes program during chapter meetings and events in 2009 and continued this in 2010. This encourages chapter members with small children to remain active as they are able to have reliable childcare during chapter meetings and events. Additionally, this offers AKAettes participants a method of earning money.
- ***Initiated Enthusiastically Serving the People Project at Our Daily Bread***, a soup kitchen in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Chapter members collected personal hygiene items and helped serve the citizens of Jackson County at Our Daily Bread in 2009 and continued this in 2010. The Facility distributed the Christmas wrapped hygiene items on Christmas Eve.
- ***Held the first Heel the Sole Race***, a race run in high heels to raise awareness of domestic violence in June 2010. This race was coordinated with several women organizations, the Salvation Army, and the Gulf Coast Center for Non-Violence.
- In response to our chapter surveys, we ***activated the Basilei Council*** to coordinate leadership training for the chapter in 2010. The Council began presenting during chapter meetings and held a Leadership Training Seminar for sorors interested in running for office or serving as committee chairmen.

Soror Theresa Haynes is the 2013-2014 Anti-Basileus (Vice President) and in this role also serves as the 2013-2014 Chapter Programs Committee Chairman. Her profile is included in this chapter.

Soror Carolyn Rushing was the 1985-1986 Basileus (President). Her reflections and profile are included in the chapter on Basilei Through the Years.

Theresa D. Haynes

Vitals:
Born: March 3 in Pascagoula, MS
Parents: Warnie Haynes, Sr. (deceased) and Alcee Torrey Haynes

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1996
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Clusters, Boules, and Leadership Seminars since initiation.
Chapter Vice-President (Anti-Basileus) 2013-2014

Served as Membership Chairman, Ivy Leaf Reporter, and Financial Secretary

Education:
Graduated Moss Point High School, Moss Point, MS
Attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Perkinston, MS
B.S. Degree in Social and Rehabilitation Services from University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS
M.S. Degree in Community Counseling from University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

Employment:
Mississippi Gulf Coast YMCA, Program Director of Youth Intervention Services

Other Interesting Facts:
- AKA Woman of the Year in 1999
- Barbara Cook Lifetime Achievement Award
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., South Eastern region 2008 Esther Rigsby Membership Chair of the Year

Girl Scout Troop

Did you know that Theta Zeta Omega had a Girl Scout troop? Yes, the chapter sponsored Troop 266 of the Gulf Pines Council in 1988 under the administration of Lynda Simmons. The troop leaders were Margaret Bush and Janine Peyton. Edith McCovery was also a great help, especially with special projects. The girls were from the Gautier area and daughters of sorors.

The members were: Anika Bush, Erica Peyton, Candice Simmons, Kenyatta Rudolph, Naquanda Abston, Andrea Reddix, Dionna Thomas, Ranecka Abston, Sheronda Pugh, Nicole Reddix and Valarie Moulds.

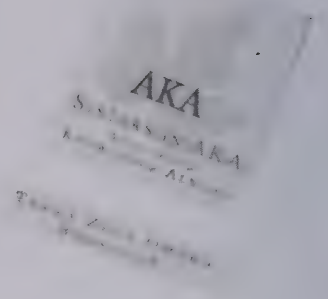
The girls were excited about being in a group and worked diligently to earn badges.

They visited nursing homes, mentored children with disabilities, participated in the March of Dimes Walk, sold cookies, went camping, volunteered at sorority functions and held an annual mother-daughter tea. They learned to appreciate nature, to help others, lead projects and the importance of working as a team.

Just look at the picture below. Were not they a beautiful group?

By Soror Margaret Bush

Book Club

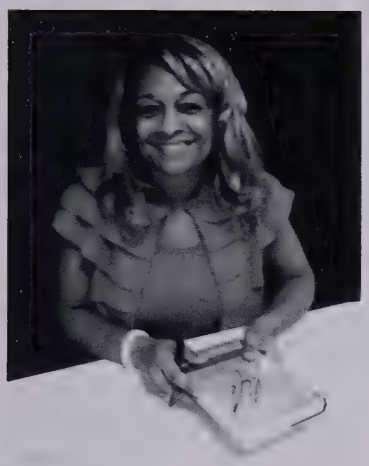


It is May 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., a small group of sorority sisters assembled at Delo's Coffee Shop in Gautier, Mississippi for a Book Club Meeting. The quote for the day was, "Don't ever stop reading, it improves your mind." The brain child for this group was Margaret Bush. She wanted a venue for sorority sisters to meet, talk, laugh and learn more about each other. On that day the group accomplished that goal and officially formed Theta Zeta Omega's book club entitled, "Sisters of AKA: Acquiring Knowledge Always!" The group had special jackets made with the logo imprinted, inspired by Angela McCon. Barbara Irvin designed membership cards and Edith McCovery made bookmarks. Over the years, the group added and lost members, but sustained its monthly meeting and acquiring knowledge through reading. Books were recommended by the members and sorors showed their creativity by promoting the months selection through door prizes, refreshments, decorations and special attire. The members read fiction, non-fiction, self-help, leadership, romance, autobiographies, human rights and political issues.

Oh what fun the sorors continued to have with other activities that support reading and sisterly relations. These activities included afternoons at the movies, spa days, book signings and luncheons. In September 2012, the group promoted one of its members, Stephanie Barnes Taylor, with a book signing of her book Leading Your Life to Excellence. This was a community event and a special day to recognize one of our own and to promote others to write. We will continue to meet, talk, laugh and always acquire knowledge because we are sisters in Alpha Kappa Alpha.

By Soror Margaret Bush, President of TZO Book Club

Book Signing



Theta Zeta Omega Basilei Council, HOPE Community Church and The Fruition Group held a book signing on August 12, 2012 for Stephanie Barnes Taylor's new book, "Leading Your Life to Excellence - A Leadership Book for Ordinary People Who Want to Do Extraordinary Things. Stephanie Barnes Taylor, currently resides in Ocean Springs, MS. She is the Chief Compliance Officer for Singing River Health System in Jackson County, Mississippi. As a member of the Senior Executive Team, she has responsibilities that impact every facet of hospital operations. She has direct responsibility for risk management, contracts, and compliance. She is the Chief Excellence Consultant for The Fruition Group, LLC, a company that specializes in personal excellence, leadership and strategic planning solutions. She is also a published author on several leadership topics and writes short fiction. Mrs. Taylor attended Mississippi State University (1990 – 1992) and graduated summa cum laude from Tougaloo College in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. She received her law degree from Harvard Law School in 1997. She has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. since 1991. She is married to Dr. Jerrod Taylor. They have 2 sons, Nicolas, 12, and Marcus, 9. They attend Hope Community Church in Gautier, MS.

Heel-The-Sole Race

In June 2010, Angela Jupiter McCon, initiated the Heel the Sole (HTS) 1.5K Race for Domestic Violence Awareness. After being inspired by NeNe Leakes of the reality television show "Real Housewives of Atlanta", it was Angela's desire to bring about awareness on the Gulf Coast and show homage to victims by demonstrating the difficulty incurred when running in high heels and its relation to the difficulty domestic violence victims face in their daily walk. The event was co-chaired by Tenesha D. Batiste. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Jackson County Campus, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Black Nurses Association, the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Non-Violence and the Salvation Army Domestic Violence Unit greatly assisted with the event's endeavor. Additionally, TZO's fellow sisters of Delta Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. of Mobile, AL supported this event and were 1ST Place winners in donations! Moreover, over $1,400 was raised and proceeds were donated to the Salvation Army Domestic Violence Unit.

In 2012, Alchar G. Jackson, Chairperson, and Theresa D. Haynes, Co-Chairperson, decided to continue this great cause and held the Heal the Soul Domestic Violence Walk during October, *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*. Realizing the continued need for awareness on the coast, they organized an event where the availability of domestic violence resources and information would be communicated to the public. Representatives from Hope Haven Children's Services and the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence explained the goals and functions of their agencies for victims of domestic violence/abuse. Furthermore, tips for ways to identify potential signs of abusers were relayed to those in attendance. This event was also sponsored by and held at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Jackson County Campus. Because of its supporters, $2423.18 was received, divided, and donated equally to the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence and Hope Haven Children's Services.

Because of the contributions of Theta Zeta Omega members, other organizations, churches, local businesses and the community, both *HTS* events were very successful! Theta Zeta Omega Chapter looks forward to continuing the mission of conquering domestic violence.

By Soror Alchar Jackson

A Koastal Affair

A Koastal Affair has been one of Theta Zeta Omega's programs since 2005. I had the opportunity to begin participating in 2007 and have admired its objective of paying tribute to those who make great impacts on the community and subsequently, others' lives. The event has rewarded numerous people while showing homage to other TZO members who too made great contributions to the community and served as role models. These Theta Zeta Omega members and the awards depicting their character are Sara Dunn {Community Service Award} and Adrian Crouch {Humanitarian Award}. I would have loved to have had the opportunity to meet them, but it is wonderful to learn of all the individuals along the Mississippi Gulf Coast who are worthy of the honor of receiving rewards in their name.

Our most recent A Koastal Affair was held on Sunday, October 13, 2013, at the Good Deeds Community Center in Gulfport, MS. The 2013 theme was "Sweet As Candy" and featured a Children's pageant where several children vied for the title of Little Mr. & Miss AKA. The pageant included children from across Mississippi and Alabama. Each contestant raised money through ads and donations to support both the Jackson and Harrison counties (Mississippi) chapters of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for a grand total of $6,050. Theta Zeta Omega Chapter partnered with its Ivy Foundation and Emerging Young Leaders Program to host the pageant. During the affair, the chapter honored and highlighted three community members and presented them with awards. Adrian McCullum and Rodney Swilley, owners of Unity Funeral Home, received the Sarah Dunn Entrepreneurial Award and Dr. Alexine Wright received the Adrian Croutch Humanitarian Award. Although this event was free to the public, $600 in donations were collected at the door. The $600 was donated to the Mississippi State CASA organization. The 2013 chairperson was past Basileus Tenesha Batiste and serving as co-chairperson was the 2013 Soror of the Year, Anika Bush.

By Soror Alchar Jackson

Alchar Gray Jackson

Vitals:
Born: September 15 in Montgomery, AL
Parents: Johnny Calvin Gray and Delcenia Holland Gray
Spouse: Kenneth Bernard Jackson, Jr.
Children: One daughter: Kennedi Loren Jackson

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Kappa Chi Chapter in 1997
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, 1 Cluster, and 1 Leadership Seminar since initiation.
Serves as Chapter Epistoleus
Served as Health Committee Chairman, 2011 – 2012

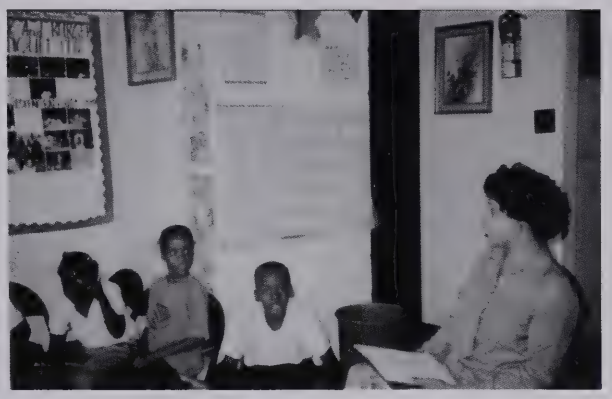
Education:
Graduated Booker T. Washington High School, Tuskegee, AL
B.S. Degree in Nursing from Auburn University
M.S. Degree in Nursing: Family Practitioner Program—Georgia State University

Employment:
Medical Analysis Wellness Clinic-March 2008-present
Check Ups-July 2007-January 2008
Coastal Family Health Center-July 2006-July 2007
University of South Alabama Children's and Women's Center-January 2005-July 2006
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta-August 2000-December 2004

Other Interesting Facts:

A. Committees: AKAettes, Health,
B. Chapter Programs: A Koastal Affair, TIPA, Heel the Sole/Heal the Soul,
C. 2011-Lady Pearl/Soror of the Year

IVY AKADEMY



The Ivy AKAdemy, was established at the Carver Village Housing Project for seven continuous years. The children served were from low socio-economic groups, ages five to sixteen. In many cases, this was the only tutoring and reinforcement activities these children received. In the final two years, the Jackson County Boys and Girls Club arrived at the housing project hiring two full time workers. We have continued to assist this group over the years.

Our chapter's Ivy AKAdemy program provided:

- Tutoring
- Homework assistance
- Activities
- Games
- Contests
- We had speakers to come in and provide guidance and mentorships
- Some local businesses that assisted us were Chevron Refinery, Ingalls Shipyard, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and Wayne Lee's Grocery. They provided speakers, materials and supplies.
- We presented various programs such as Black History, Mothers' Day and Christmas for the children, parents, and community.

The purpose of this program was to encourage and help these children reach their goals. As I reflect over this program, it gives me great joy knowing that Theta Zeta Omega of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. has made a difference in their lives. Some of these children are now young productive young adults in the community. It warmed my heart as I spoke to one of the former students who expressed his gratitude to the women of AKA that never gave up on him. Another individual who remembers what we did is currently serving on

the Jackson County Boys and Girls Club Board. He has also had the opportunity to study abroad and has graduated from college. This is an example of Service to Mankind on behalf of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. that truly makes a difference. I am very proud to be member of this great organization.

By Soror Edith McCovery

Edith D. McCovery

Vitals:
Born: June 10 in Toledo, OH
Parents: Eli Watson and Serena Watson (both deceased)
Spouse: Robert McCovery
Children: One daughter: Serena McCovery (AKA)

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1986
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Clusters, Leadership Seminar and Boule since initiation.
Served as Chapter Anti-Grammateus

Education:
Graduated Libbey High School, Toledo, OH
B.S. Degree in Education from University of Toledo
National Board Certification in Education

Employment:
Washington Local Schools, Sylvania, OH
Moss Point Schools, Moss Point, MS
Pascagoula Schools, Pascagoula, MS

Other Interesting Facts:

A. Committees: Ivy AKAdemy, Scholarship, Senior Citizen, A Koastal Affair, First Responders, Regional Conference Awards Chair
B. AKA Woman of the Year

Junior Responders Program

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s International Program consists of five platforms. Platform III – The Economic Growth of the Black Family, focuses on strengthening the Black community by strengthening the viability of the Black family. This Platform also focuses on the Black male. There are five Chapter approaches that can be taken to implement this Platform. One of the approaches includes the Alpha Kappa Alpha First Responder Service Program. The program requires chapters to partner with local Police, Fire, Homeland Security offices, school systems, American Red Cross Chapters, etc. to develop plans for establishing a disaster and recovery relief training program for young Black males. Soror/Chapter member, Barbara J. Irvin served as chairperson for this program and was instrumental in developing the curriculum and engaging local community partners to collaborate with Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to bring the program to fruition. Soror/Chapter member Avonne Polk, Counselor at Kreole Elementary, served as liaison between the chapter and the school. Soror/Chapter Member Dianne Alsgood worked closely with Soror Barbara Irvin to develop the program.

Theta Zeta Omega kicked off its 2nd year program on December 15, 2008 during the Father & Son Breakfast at Kreole Elementary in Moss Point. Chapter President/Basileus Stephanie Barnes Taylor announced the participants in the program scheduled to begin during the week of Martin Luther King's Birthday, on January 23. The program consisted of 28 sixth grade boys at Kreole. They met once a month during January to April. During those months, the boys heard from the Moss Point Fire Department, the Jackson County Emergency Management Agency, and the American Red Cross, Singing River Hospital System Risk Management, and the FBI. The boys participated in several presentations including (1) Understanding Disasters, (2) How to Prepare for Disasters, (3) Potential Causes of Disaster, (4) How to Apply Disaster Training to Your Home, School and Community, (5) CPR Training,

(6) Assessing Responsiveness, and (7) Identifying and Utilizing Resource Units. The Program culminated on April 17, 2009 where the boys received First Aid and CPR training. The participants received a Certificate of First Responder Training from Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. during their awards program on May 20, 2009.

The April Program included a workshop presented by Tonya Ferrill with the American Red Cross. She taught the boys information about CPR and other life saving measures. She also showed the boys how to create a first aid kit and how to use the items in the event of an emergency. The boys were joined by fraternity members: Billy Bush and Charlie Myles, both of Eta Chi Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, James Torrey and B. B. Jennings, both of Xi Zeta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Eric Washington, an orthopedic surgeon at Singing River Hospital, stopped by to speak to the young men about the importance of remaining in school and the medical profession.

The Kreole Junior Responder Program was a huge success and afforded the members of Theta Zeta Omega the opportunity to work with these young men. Kreole Elementary was one of the Ivy AKAdemy sites for Theta Zeta Omega. Each year, the chapter donated $1,000 to the school. The chapter's other Ivy AKAdemy site was Nichols Elementary in Biloxi (school closed after Hurricane Katrina). Other chapter members who participated in the Program included, Margaret Bush, Edith McCovery, Carolyn Jennings, Evelyn Millender, Tenesha Taylor-McClendon, Cathy Wells, Loretta Jennings, and Basileus/Chapter President Stephanie Barnes Taylor.

Senior Citizen Outreach Program

The partnership and strong bond between Theta Zeta Omega Chapter and the Frances Fredericks Senior Citizen Center began in 2007. Soror Barbara J. Thomas has served as the chairman of the Harrison County Senior Citizen Outreach Committee since its inception. The committee annually conducts a survey to get an idea of the interests of the senior citizens. The first two years, they wanted information about Medicare Part I and Part II. A consultant was brought in both years to present the requested information and to answer questions. A healthy meal was provided after both sessions.

The third year survey results indicated the senior citizens wanted to learn to use a computer. The committee asked the members of Theta Zeta Omega to donate a computer and printer (a second computer was donated by the chapter a year later). Soror Barbara volunteered to teach computer instruction for two hours each Tuesday from September through May. After the first year of instruction, Soror Edith McCovery joined the instructional staff. Soror Margaret Bush, Soror Cathy Mason and Soror Serena McCovery joined the instructional staff when their schedules permitted. The computer classes quickly became very popular and every class was filled to capacity. Over sixty-three (63) senior citizens have gone through the 4-week specially designed curriculum. Some of them have taken the course twice or have come back for one or two refresher courses. Many of the seniors learned to email family members and one was able to correspond with her grandson who was stationed in the war zone. A couple of ministers and one business man appreciated the opportunity to make business cards. One lady made fliers to advertise the opening of a child care business in her home. Other senior citizens just enjoy looking up information on the internet, reading the news, learning keyboarding, playing games, designing church programs and designing Sunday school lessons.

Each year since 2010, survey results have indicated that the senior citizens want more information about Diabetes awareness and healthy eating. Since November is Diabetes Awareness Month, we have hosted the "Diabetes Awareness Lunch and Learn" during that month for the past three years. The first session was conducted by one of our chapter's nurse practitioners, Soror Alchar Jackson. She presented a workshop on "Healthy Eating Tips for

Diabetics". After the conclusion of Soror Alchar's presentation, each senior citizen was presented with a bag of healthy snacks to take home. Each year, a healthy Thanksgiving lunch has been served. Also, the senior citizens were provided with instructions on how to prepare a similar meal at home.

In the spring of 2012, since the Mississippi Gulf Coast was predicted to have a really active hurricane season, we decided to prepare hurricane preparation kits for the senior citizens to use in the event the prediction came to fruition. The kits included food, water, a flash light, first aid supplies, printed information about preparation and a Sony radio.

The 2013 "Diabetes Awareness Lunch and Learn" was held at Café CLIMB (a non-profit, seven (7) month intensive workforce training and youth development program). The luncheon followed a Diabetes awareness presentation by a member of the Gulf Coast Health Educator Organization.

In addition to the "Lunch and Learn", our chapter sponsored a vegetable and herb garden at the Frances Fredericks Senior Citizen Center. Our goal, in accordance to Health Initiative B, is to encourage our senior citizens to become environmental stewards and to sustain their ability to develop the resources needed to eat properly.

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter is a proud partner of the Frances Fredericks Senior Citizen Complex. We look forward to serving the elderly for many years to come.

By Dr. Barbara Thomas

Reflections of Dr. Barbara J. Thomas:

It was a sad occasion for me when I graduated, from the University of Southern Mississippi, about a year before the chartering of the Iota Kappa Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Nonetheless, second chances come to those that patiently wait, which in my case was about twenty years. In 1994, Soror Carolyn Rushing invited me to travel to Germany and Austria with AKA's from all over the world. During that trip, I had the opportunity to talk with Soror Eva Evans, Soror Norma White and other leaders of this great sisterhood. When I returned home, I was so excited about the national programs and all of the service projects that the sorority had implemented and was implementing in communities all over the world. Since I was seeking a way to give back, through service, to a community that had been very good to me as a child growing up; I eagerly desired to become a member. In 1996, I was privileged to become an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman and to begin a lifetime of service to all mankind!

As I reflect back to my first year as an AKA and the opportunity to be a part of enhancing the quality of life for people throughout the world; I think of the excitement of purchasing my first new car! My thoughts of that brand new mustang, with the tan leather top, still elicit the joyful feeling that I had on the first day I drove away from the dealership! I vowed to ensure my car got the required maintenance service so that I could enjoy the optimal benefits of ownership. Without the proper service, I knew that the feeling that I had on the first day of ownership would soon fade away. Although, owning a new car does not adequately compare to the excitement I had when I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; there are a few similarities. I still have a feeling of excitement when I think back to the day I became a member of this great sisterhood. I am sure each of you has that same feeling of excitement when you think back to the day you became an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman. However, we know that if we are to receive the optimal benefits of our membership, we must maintain the mission of our beloved sorority through **service to all mankind**. Just as ownership of a new car requires maintenance service, we must continue to enhance the quality of life for citizens throughout the world. "And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful." (Titus 3:14, *NKJV*).

After 17 years of service as an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman, there are two positions in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter that I cherish the most. They are the honor of being the first AKAettes Leadership Program chairman and the very rewarding chairmanship of the Harrison County Senior Citizen Outreach Committee. The opportunity to mentor and provide direction to teenage girls was priceless. As an instructor for the free computer instruction class for senior citizen, I had the pleasure of helping a 94 year old woman acquire the skills that she had always dreamed about but thought were not attainable.

Dr. Barbara J. Thomas

Vitals:
Born: January 3 in Gulfport, MS
Parents: Clifton Thomas, Sr. and Fannie Thomas

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1996
Attended most South Eastern Regional Conferences, Clusters, Boules, Leadership Conferences, and two National Founders' Day Celebrations since initiation

Served as Chapter Tamiouchos and Philacter
Served as Chairman of the Chapter's Connection Committee, AKAettes Leadership/Personal Development Program, Senior Citizen Outreach Program, Harrison County Black Family Committee, Harrison County Ivy Reading Academy, Nominating Committee, and History Committee.
Served as South Eastern Scholarship Committee Chairman, and member of South Eastern Region Connection and EAF Committees.

Education:

Graduated from Harrison Central High School, Gulfport, MS
B.S. Degree, Master of Education, and Doctor of Education from University of Southern Mississippi

Employment:

JBHM Education Group, Jackson, MS, School Improvement Consultant & Scholastic Auditor, January 2007 to 2010
Gulfport School District, Gulfport, MS, Teacher, Principal, and District Administrator, May 1974 to June 2006

Other Interesting Facts:

- Elected Official – Harrison County School Board Member 2013 (for a six year term)
- Habitat for Humanity Project Volunteer
- North Gulfport Civic Club, 2nd Vice President
- "Let's Get Fit North Gulfport" Chairman
- Gulf Coast Chamber's Jr. Leadership Board
- Gulfport Chamber Education Committee
- Past President of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa
- Member of the Leadership Gulf Coast Class of 1993
- Member of the Task Force for Community Grants - United Way of South Mississippi
- Naval Construction Battalion Center Restoration Board Member
- Task Force for Children Services of the United Way
- Board of Directors for the Gulf Pines Girl Scout Council
- Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church Member & Education Committee Chairman
- Centennial South Eastern Soror of the Day
- Theta Zeta Omega Chapter " Ivy Wreath Award" for Faithful Service
- Gulfport NAACP Medgar and Myrlie Evers Ambassador Award, October 2013
- Twenty Eighth Street Elementary "2012 Partner in Education Award"
- Gulf Pines Girl Scout Council Community Service and President's Cabinet Awards
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa Outstanding Chapter Award as President
- Outstanding Young Women of America
- Who's Who in Black Mississippi – Inaugural Edition and 2nd Edition
- Who's Who Among America's Teachers – 1st Edition
- "Keeping Our Schools Safe" Award
- Outstanding Educator in America Nominee
- Outstanding Teacher for Twenty Eighth Street Elementary
- Recognized in the Gulf Coast STAR Magazine as one of the "Ten Most Influential Women on the Gulf Coast"
- The Sun Herald "Newspaper in Education Teacher of the Week"
- Gulfport Mayor and City Council Proclamation for support, assistance and cooperation toward enhancing the quality of life in Gulfport, MS

Health Initiatives

The Health Committee was actively involved in fulfilling the requirements of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Asthma Initiative since 2012. We have developed and implemented asthma education workshops through demonstration, visual and oral presentation to parents with children living with asthma. We initiated the program among head start students and have expanded our reach to children and parents at the elementary school grade levels. Our Asthma initiative program has been presented in Jackson and Harrison counties through the combined efforts of Theta Zeta Omega and Upsilon Chi Omega Chapters.

Theta Zeta Omega Chapter has supported numerous community health and wellness organizations over the years. Most recently, under health initiatives, we have sponsored SIDS Sunday and a SIDS awareness campaign with the "Back to Sleep" motto.

Our Heal the Sole Domestic Violence Event, first held in 2010, was also held in 2011 and 2012 at MS Gulf Coast Community College in Gautier, MS and raised money for donation to the Women's Center for Non-Violence and Hope Haven.

In 2013, we collaborated with Upsilon Chi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for the AKA Pink Goes Red Day to support the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association. We also made monetary donations to the Pink Hearts Fund which is a local organization that provides support for women battling breast cancer.

The AIDS Awareness campaign initiative was fulfilled by sponsoring a bridge walk and community health fair in 2012.

In addition to health programs and initiatives, we participated in the American Cancer Breast Cancer Walk in Biloxi, American Heart Association Heart Walk in Pascagoula, MS, Relay for Life, March of Dimes Walk Gulfport, MS, and newly added in 2013, Stepping for Diabetes walk in Gulfport, MS and the American Heart Association "Art for Hearts" Gala in Ocean Springs, MS.

The Chapter has also supported the Sickle Cell Association of Jackson/George Counties by participating in the annual Sickle Cell Tea and through monetary donations to the organization.

By Soror Edwina Roland

Edwina Roland

Vitals:
Born: May 21 in Pascagoula, MS
Parents: Freddie and Kathrine Jackson (AKA)
Spouse: Melvin James Roland III
Children:
One son—Matthew James Roland
Two daughters:
Marley Joi Roland
Macey Jade Roland

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 2006
Attended South Eastern Regional Conferences and Clusters since initiation.
Serves as Chair of the Health Committee

Education:
Graduated Moss Point High School, Moss Point, MS
B.S. Degree in Biology from Morris Brown College, Atlanta, GA
B.S. Degree in Nursing from Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
Master's Degree: Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Southern Mississippi

Employment:
Family Nurse Practitioner:
- Singing River Health Systems Primary Care Clinics, 2013 - present
- Medical Analysis, LLC, Biloxi, MS 2011-2012
- MS Department of Health, District IV, 2010
- Keesler Medical Center, RN, 2008-2010
- Ocean Springs Hospital, ER RN, 2005-2008

Other Interesting Facts:
- SIDS Project Initiative
- Asthma Initiative

AKAettes Leadership Development Program

In 2003, Theresa Haynes and Angela Jupiter-McCon were discussing the need for a program for young ladies on the MS Gulf Coast; a program that would foster academic excellence, integrity, and community service. Theta Zeta Omega chapter members loved the concept and worked long and hard to develop a program that exemplified the values of all Alpha Kappa Alpha women. In April 2004, under the leadership of Angela Jupiter-McCon, the AKAettes Leadership Development Program was presented to the community. Through the years, the AKAettes Leadership Development Program has grown under the advisement of Theta Zeta Omega, most especially the advisors.

The Inaugural Advisors were Pamela McInnis and Dr. Barbara J. Thomas. From 2004-2005, they set the standard for leadership development. From 2005 - 2006, Tenesha D. Batiste, with the assistance of Carolyn hall-Jones and Hope Stallworth, brought in a new group and new changes - that is the year the colors changed to the existing colors: Precious Pink and Bold Black and the year that the crown was adopted as the AKAettes symbol. Mrs. Batiste continued her advisement from 2006-2007. It was in 2007, that the 1st AKAettes Pink Ice Scholarship Ball was held. In the fall of 2007, Dr. Tamara Harper and Chaundra Luckett became the AKAettes co-advisors, fostering integrity and academic excellence.

In 2008, Dr. Harper remained as an advisor and Tenesha Batiste returned to join her, thus providing continuity. In 2009, the AKAettes Leadership Development Program experienced tremendous growth and recognition under direction of the Angela C. Campbell. In 2010, Mrs. Campbell was joined by Stephanie Barnes Taylor, and character reigned supreme. As the current advisors, they have continued to foster the principles established by each of the former advisors. Joining the co-advisors, Angela Campbell and Stephanie Barnes Taylor, is Angela Jupiter –McCon. Mrs. McCon will serve as the Operations Chairman of the AKAettes Leadership Development Program. With the guidance of the members of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the AKAettes Leadership Development Program will continue to live up to its mission, "Preparing young ladies today to become productive and purposeful women of tomorrow." To all AKAettes members, new and not so new, "Your crown is already paid for; all you have to do is put it on your head and wear it."

AKAettes Presidents

2004 – 2005 Lavonia Grace, 2005 – 2006 Natasha Bogan, 2006 – 2007 Ja'Leasa Walden, 2007 – 2008 Shakezia Pascley, 2008 – 2009 – Whitney Gibson, 2009-2010 – Janiece Kelly, 2010 – 2011 Cheltzi Frazier, 2011 – 2012 Jamila Richmond

By Soror Ja'Leasa Walden

Ja'Leasa Nicole Walden

Vitals:
Born: April 17 in Thomasville, GA
Parents: Ralph Walden and Melanie Walden (deceased)

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Gamma Omicron Chapter in 2010
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences and Clusters since initiation.
Serves as Chapter Hodegos
Serves as Chapter Ivy Leaf Reporter
Chairman, AKAettes Committee

Education:
Graduated Gautier High School, Gautier, MS
B.A. Degree in English/Mass Communication emphasis in Journalism from Tougaloo College
Masters of Science in Public Relations from University of Southern Mississippi

Employment:
Marketing & Compliance Specialist – New Horizon Management LLC, 2011 - present

Other Interesting Facts:
- Great niece of charter member, Norma Caples and first chapter initiate, Emma Wells
- 1st AKAettes Pink Ice Scholarship Ball Queen – Chapter sponsored program
- Senior Soror of the Year – Gamma Omicron – Tougaloo College

Emerging Young Leaders (EYL)

Twenty-six girls were initially selected from Soror Courtney Caples' 6th grade class to participate in our EYL program. The first session and parent meeting was held on April 16th. The EYL Committee oriented the participants and their parents and began the Leadership Development AKAdemy with a session on Public Speaking. The girls signed the necessary forms and recited the EYL Pledge. Overall, the program initial start was a great success! The girls were very enthusiastic and their parents were extremely appreciative of our leadership in this program.

On May 20, 2011 The Leadership Development AKAdemy--Joining Clubs (Social Interaction) was held at Moss Point Upper Elementary School. The following sorors made presentations: Sorors Evelyn Millender, Angela Campbell, and Stephanie Barnes Taylor. Soror Evelyn's presentation on Etiquette was so well-received that we will plan to have an Etiquette portion during each session to cover this broad and well-needed topic.

On Sunday, May 22, 2011 The Leadership Development AKAdemy--Team Building Project was held at the Union Baptist Life Center. The following sorors presented: Angela McCon, Chara Clancy, Avonne Polk, and Alchar Jackson. Soror Angela Jaynes attended as well. They did an outstanding job becoming the characters for the girls to interview. There were only 3 participants, but they and their parents were very enthused about the project and the program overall. Low attendance was most likely attributed to the Sixth Grade Atlanta Field trip the prior Friday and Saturday.

Also on Sunday, May 22, 2011 The Leadership Development AKAdemy--Making the Best of Your Summer Project held at the Union Baptist Life Center. This purpose of this project was to have the girls develop and present summer projects that would be done independently over the summer--with incentives for completion). The following sorors designed the project: Carolyn Hall, Shea Carter, Jackie Warren-Williams and Loretta Jennings. An outstanding presentation and package was presented to the girls to work on over the summer to develop their own business. The presentation was made by Soror Jackie Warren-Williams. Incentives were given for participation and other recognition for the projects themselves. Additional packets were delivered to Soror Courtney Caples for distribution to the girls who could not attend.

On September 17, 2011 – (now 7th graders) Implement Educational Enrichment AKAdemy—Middle School Expectations was held at the St. Martin Library. This class involved a survival kit for middle school, including perspectives from the student (AKAettes) and soror-educators. Special emphasis was placed on transitioning from sixth to seventh grade and introduced things to expect in 8th grade and beyond, including an introduction to Mississippi Scholars and other college preparatory information. Soror Angela Magee did an outstanding job with the September 17th EYL

Session. Sorors Margaret Bush, Edith McCovery, and Inez DeShields also did a great job with presenting on Middle School Expectations. There were four EYL Members in attendance.

On December 17, 2011 Leadership Development AKAdemy--- Team Building The following sorors volunteered and did an outstanding job: Jackie Warren Williams, Theresa Haynes, Tanya Haynes, Angela Jaynes, Barbara Dumas Marshall, Loretta Jennings, LaJeuna Payton, and Evelyn Millender. The sorors worked with the girls during their Team Building Project. The girls created two fashion magazines. Each team had a feature writer, marketing department and editor. The girls did an outstanding job developing their magazine and presenting them. Soror Evelyn Millender presented on writing thank you letters. Sorors Loretta and Jackie presented Making the Best of Your Christmas Break (Develop and present winter projects to be done independently over the Christmas break---with incentives for completion). Each girl was given a journal to bring to EYL Sessions and to record their thoughts over the course of the program.

The February 2012 Session was a success! Soror Angela Jaynes presented on Essay Writing. Soror Stephanie Taylor presented on Teen Domestic Violence in recognition of Teen Domestic Violence Month. Soror Evelyn did an outstanding job with presenting on Etiquette at home. Soror Angela Magee presented great information on the advantages and disadvantages of Social Media. Finally, Soror Stephanie presented on Time Management and Organization. The session ended with the distribution of T-Shirts. Four girls were attendance. Many were away on a school trip. Sorors Bridgette Parks, Theresa Haynes, and Courtney Caples were also present.

The March 2012 Session was a success! We implemented the Civic Engagement AKAdemy with a Going Green Project. Soror Courtney Caples led the project. The girls decorated pots and planted flowers that they can water and grow at their school. Soror Theresa Haynes presented on Managing Stress. Soror Evelyn presented on telephone etiquette. Other sorors in attendance were Soror Anika Bush, Soror Inez DeShields, Soror Bridgette Parks, Soror Stephanie Barnes Taylor, and Soror LaJeuna Payton. Soror Barbara Marshall and Soror Angela Magee contributed materials and refreshments.

The April 2012 Session was a success! We continued the Civic Engagement AKAdemy with a Going Green Project. Soror Evelyn Millender invited Evelyn Jackson from the 4-H to present on the importance of conservation efforts and protecting our ecosystem and recycling. Soror Stephanie presented on Public Speaking Skills Refresher and Preparation for Awards Banquet.

The May 2012 Session was also a success! We had 20 young ladies to participate!!!! The committee took the young ladies to Keesler Air Force Base where they sorted recyclables at the sorting facility there. Soror Bridgette did an outstanding presentation on recycling later on. The young ladies reviewed the criteria for the speaking completion.

Soror Barbara Dumas and the committee did an excellent job with the EYL Awards Ceremony and Public Speaking Challenge. Each girl was recognized for participation. Soror Stephanie made

special presentations (EYL Certificate and bracelet) to the Moss Point 8th graders at their promotion ceremony.

Soror Angela Magee and Soror Ja'Leasa planned the EYL Session on January 19, 2013 Character Building AKAdemy ---Peer Pressure held at the Pascagoula Library. Attendance was much improved. The presentation was an overall success!

The young ladies participated in the Saving Our Sisters Youth Summit on Saturday, May 11 at the Biloxi Coliseum. The Speaking Challenge and Graduation for our 8th Grade members was held on May 18, 2013 at the Pascagoula Library.

A new parent orientation was held on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at Hope Community Church in Gautier, MS. Soror Stephanie presented on Character Building (Building self-esteem, safe choices, domestic violence prevention, health, peer pressure, parental relationships and real beauty).

EYLs Cameron Dedeaux and Savannah Conn participated in the Breast Cancer Walk on October 19, 2013.

EYLs, Kori Wells, Alleyah Torrey, Destinee Beard, and Akia Sherrod, participated in A Koastal Affair and presented the Welcome, Meditation, Purpose, and Introduction of Participants respectively.

"Timeless Service" Through the Years in Pictures

Voter Registration Drive

Martin Luther King Day Parade

Asthma Initiative – Health Fair

TZO Family Picnic

Working on Habitat for Humanity's House

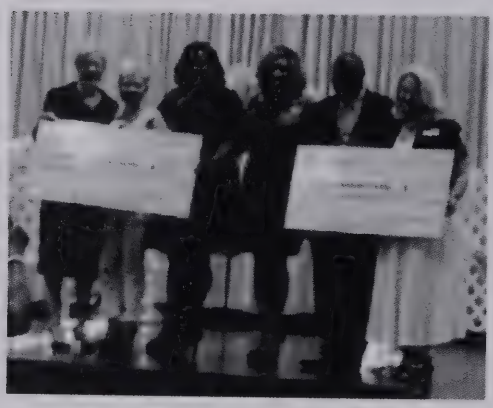
Pink Goes Red Day

TZO Ivy & Pearl Ball

Helping to Feed the Hungry

Ringing Bell for Salvation Army

Coastal Family Health Clinic Celebration



CASA Donation – A Coastal Affair – 2013

2013 Leadership Conference

CHAPTER MEMBER PROFILES/REFLECTIONS

Theta Zeta Omega (TZO) Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was chartered on May 15, 1965. Since that time, TZO's membership has steadily increased. Membership in 2012 reached a high of 80 members. These members bring to TZO varied experiences that contribute to TZO providing superior community service to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Many of these members have volunteered to share their profiles and TZO experience in this book. Their profiles and reflections are included on the following pages.

Dianne Nunnery Alsgood

Vitals:
Born: December 20 in Hammond, LA
Parents: Eugene and Shirley Nunnery (both deceased)
Spouse: Samuel Alsgood Jr.
Children: - Two daughters:
Lauren Ashley Alsgood (AKA)
Cameron Renee' Alsgood

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Lambda Omicron Chapter, Southeastern Louisiana University (Charter member)
Attended South Eastern Regional Conferences (2008-2011), Clusters (2007-2011), and Leadership Conference 2011
Chapter Tamiouchos 2010 – 2012
Junior Responder Co-Chairman
Served on A Koastal Affair Committee 2007- 2011
Served on Ivy and Pearl Affair Committee 2007- 2012
Mistress of Ceremony Founders' Day 2010

Education:
Graduated Hammond High School, Hammond, LA
B.S. Degree, Southeastern Louisiana University
MBA, University, Atlanta, GA
Professional in Human Resources Certification, California State University—North

Employment:

- Vision Infuzion LLC _ Chief Administrative Officer 1/ 2013
- Technical Director Radiation Oncology/Nuclear Medicine Children Hospital Los Angeles, CA
- Nuclear Medicine – Manager – Children Hospital Los Angeles
- Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist Touro Infirmary, New Orleans, LA

Other Interesting Facts:

- Ivy Wreath Basileus Award 2012 - Theta Zeta Omega Chapter
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. - Financial Certification

Lauren Alsgood

Vitals:
Born: November 5 in New Orleans, LA
Parents: Samuel Alsgood Jr. and Dianne Nunnery Alsgood

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in October 2008
Attended South Eastern Regional Conferences (2009-2011), Clusters (2008-2011), and Leadership Conference 2011

Education:
Graduated Clonlara High School
A.A. Degree, MGCCC, Jackson County, MS, May 2005
B.A. Degree in Social Science, Tulane University Biloxi, MS, May 2008
Master of Liberal Arts Degree, Tulane University New Orleans, LA, May 2011

Employment:
- Vision Infuzion LLC - Chief Executive Officer 1/ 2013

Other Interesting Facts:
- Audit Committee Member
- Finance Committee Member
- A Koastal Affair Committee Member
- The Ivy and Pearl Affair Committee Member
- Junior Responders Committee Member
- Served as a proctor at the 2009 Regional Conference

Anika Bush

Vitals:
Born: October 17 in Pascagoula, MS
Parents: Billy and Margaret Bush (AKA)
Children:
- One son: Damon Bush
- One daughter: Amari Morgan

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 2008
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences since initiation.
Attended 1 Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA
Served as TZO Anniversary Luncheon Chairman
Served as TZO Epistoleus, 2011-2012
Currently serves as TZO Grammateus, 2013-2014

Education:
Graduated Gautier High School, Gautier, MS
B.S. and Master's Degree in Business Administration from American Intercontinental University

Employment:
- Jackson County Schools – Bookkeeper
- Harrison Finance Company – Adjuster
- Mississippi Power - CSR

Other Interesting Facts:
Was selected as the TZO Woman of the Year in 2013
Serves as Youth Director for Hope Community Church in Gautier, MS

As a legacy, Anika grew up around Alpha Kappa Alpha members. In 2008, she became a loyal and dedicated member of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter.

Anika has served on various committees in our chapter, church and community. Some examples are:

- *Correspondence Secretary for Theta Zeta Omega*
- *Heel The Soul Committee*
- *Emerging Young Leaders Programs*
- *Breast Cancer Awareness*
- *Chairperson of Chapter Anniversary*
- *Designer of Certificates, Programs and pamphlets*
- *Domestic Violence Project*
- *Youth Director at Church*
- *Safe Halloween Project at Church*

Anika continues the Alpha Kappa Alpha signature mission to provide, *'Global Leadership through Timeless Service.'* Her hard work ethic, active participation and pleasant demeanor are just a few qualities that make Anika a valuable member of Theta Zeta Omega.

Anika has always proven to be a reliable hard worker and a great team member. For these reasons, she was selected as Theta Zeta Omega's 2012 Woman of the Year.

Angela Tameka Campbell

Vitals:
Born: October 19 in Natchez, MS
Parents: Roosevelt and JoAnn S. Chatman
Spouse: Scott Campbell
Children: - One daughter - Riyana R. Marshall

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in October 2008
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Mississippi Clusters, and Boule 2010
Chairman of AKAettes Committee 2009-2013
Chairman of Saving Our Sisters

Lady Ivy, 2009
Served on Ivy & Pearl Affair, A Koastal Affair, Saving Our Sisters, Health Committee, Anniversary Luncheon, Founders Day, Scholarship Committee, Finance Committee, JC Senior Citizens Committee
Boule' Delegate, 2010

Education:
Graduated Natchez High School
Jackson State University, B.S. in Child Care & Family Education
William Carey University, Masters in Elementary Education
William Carey University, Gifted Education Endorsement

Employment:
- Moss Point School District, 15 years
- Taught 2nd grade 2 years; 4th grade 2 years; Gifted Education K-8, 7 years; Elementary Curriculum Coordinator, 1 year; Lead Teacher, 1 year Assistant Principal (Present Position) 2 years

Other Interesting Facts:
- Moss Point School District's Teacher of the Year 2003-2004
- Graduate of Finding and Developing the Leader in You
- Two things I'm most passionate about are: Mentoring and the Art of Dance (which I teach in my spare time)
- Several AKAettes who were under my leadership have gone on to become members of Alpha Kappa Alpha

Marion Coleman

Vitals:
Born: September 19 in Pascagoula, MS
Parents: James Shannon (deceased) and Rebecca Shannon
Spouse: Bennie Coleman
Children – Two daughters

- Tiffany Coleman
- Shakayla Monique McCune

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 2005
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Boules, and Leadership Conferences since initiation.
Served as Chapter Philacter, 2011-2012

Education:
Graduated Moss Point High School, Moss Point, MS
B.S. Degree in Sociology, Masters in Social Work from the University of Southern MS, Hattiesburg, MS

Employment:
Singing River Health System – Regional Cancer Center from 2006 to present

Patricia J. Coleman

Vitals:
Born: May 1 in Louisville, MS
Parents: Ellis and Mary Jordan (both deceased)
Spouse: Gary Coleman
Children:
One daughter – Soror Patrice Coleman
One son - Garrett Coleman

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Nu Sigma Omega Chapter, Dec. 1984
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences and Mississippi Clusters
Chairman of Awards Committee

Education:
Mississippi Valley State University—B.S.-Business Administration
University of Southern Mississippi, Masters in Education
University of Southern Mississippi, Masters in Administration

Employment:
Moss Point School District—Administrator
Assistant Principal and Principal
Pascagoula School District--Teacher
Mobile County School District—Teacher
Tennessee Valley Authority—Energy Consultant

Other Interesting Facts:
Silver Soror
Founders' Day Committee Member
The Ivy & Pearl Affair Committee Member
Scholarship Committee Member
Anniversary Committee Member
Sisterly Relations Committee Member
Membership Committee Member

Katie Criddell

Vitals:
Born: March 29 in Jackson, MS
Parents: Ned and Mattie Seaton (both deceased)
Spouse: Junius Criddell (deceased)
Children – Three daughters

- Sheryl Matthews
- Jocelyn Charles
- Kathryn Criddell

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Gamma Phi Chapter in 1968
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences and clusters since initiation.
Served on various chapter committees since activating with Theta Zeta Omega in 2010

Education:
Graduated M. F. Nichols High School, Biloxi, MS
B.S. Degree in Business Education from Alcorn A&M College

Employment:
Gulfport High School Teacher – 1970-1973
Biloxi Housing Authority Manager, 1974-1987
Business Training Institute, Instructor, 1988-1990
Phoenix College Instructor, 1990-1992
Gulf Coast Gaming Industry – Human Resources, 1994-2010

Other Interesting Facts:

- AKA Silver Star (over 25 years membership)

Andrea Davis

Vitals:
Born: May 29 in Cleveland, OH
Parents: Warren Taylor, Jr. and Trena M. Taylor
Spouse: Charlton L. Davis
Children: - One son
- Charlton L. Davis, II

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 2008
Attended several South Eastern Regional clusters since initiation.

Education:
Graduated Richland High School, Richland, MS
B.S. Degree from Hawaii Pacific University
MBA Degree from William Carey University, MS

Employment:
Canadian National Railroad, Supervisor, Present
Northrop Grumman, Project Manager, 2008-2010
U.S. Air Force, Aviation Management/Instructor, 1996-2008

Other Interesting Facts:
- Winner of Sara Dunn Entrepreneur Award
- Owner – Subway Franchise in Biloxi, MS

Reflections of Soror Inez DeShields:

She currently serves as the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

I have been a member of Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for 27 years and have many fond memories of program initiatives, community service projects, and other activities that have provided valuable service to mankind. The PIMS (Partners in Math and Science) Initiative was one of the national projects that increased my participation in the chapter.

While I have served on various committees, I am most passionate about the efforts of the Scholarship Committee, of which I now chair. Being an educator, I am always concerned about the education of our youth and constantly encourage them to pursue a higher education in order to make a better life for themselves. I have seen the number of scholarships our chapter offers to graduating seniors in Jackson and Harrison counties grow from two $1000 scholarships to four $1000 scholarships and two $500 scholarships. We now open the scholarships to both male and female students and while we make an effort to support those students who plan to attend historically black colleges and universities, we have given scholarships to students who attend other state supported and private colleges and universities as well. The $500 scholarships are designated for those students who plan to attend a community or junior college while the $1000 scholarships go to students attending a four-year college or university. Now that the chapter has its own website, we are able to make the scholarship available online for the benefit of those students who cannot get a copy from their high school guidance office. Establishing a working relationship with the guidance counselors at the schools is an ongoing process, as personnel constantly changes.

Our chapter's review process for awarding the scholarships had undergone a number of changes and continues to evolve as guidelines and federal laws regarding student financial aid change. It is important to keep up with the scholarship recipients in order to distribute the funds after verifying their enrollment in school. However, I would like to begin tracking the progress of these students to see where they are 2, 4, and even 6 years after they have received the scholarship. Many of the graduates who received the AKA scholarship are now excelling in their chosen careers.

For more than twenty years Theta Zeta Omega has partnered with Lift Bible College Crusade Youth Department Advisory Board to provide free ACT Workshops for students at the Isiah Fredericks Community Center in North Gulfport. Members of the chapter have offered their expertise in English, Math, Science, and Test Taking Strategies to help students improve their scores on this national test. In addition to providing tutors, the chapter also makes a financial contribution to help offset the cost of materials, supplies, and snacks. Among those members who have provided service in recent years towards this project are: Wattine Hannah, Glenda Marshall, Edith McCovery, Barbara Thomas, Cathy Wells, and Inez DeShields.

Inez DeShields

Vitals:
Born: April 1 in Hattiesburg, MS
Parents: Lee Allen Dent (deceased) and Inez Greer Dent
Spouse: Kenneth Simmons DeShields, Sr.
Children:

- One son: Kenneth Simmons DeShields II
- One daughter: Danielle Patrice DeShields (AKA)

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1986
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences since initiation.
Attended the 2008 Centennial Boule

Education:
Graduated Hattiesburg High School-Hattiesburg, MS
B.S. Degree in Mathematics, M. Ed. in Mathematics Education, and Administration, Supervision and Instruction from University of Southern MS

Employment:
Quitman Consolidated School District - 7th Grade Mathematics Teacher - August 1973- May 1975
Moss Point School District - Ed Mayo Jr. High School – 7th & 8th grade Mathematics Teacher - 1975-1977
Moss Point School District – Moss Point High School – Mathematics Teacher - 1977-1996
Moss Point School District – Moss Point High School – Assistant Principal - 1996-1998
Moss Point School District – Magnolia Junior High School – Principal - 1998-2002
Baldwin Co. Board of Education -Asst. Principal Daphne Middle School - 2004-2006
Bishop State Community College, Mobile, AL- Mathematics Instructor - 2006-Present

Other Interesting Facts:

- ACT Workshop Committee Chair
- Scholarship Committee Chair
- AKA Woman of the Year
- Dreamer Award
- STAR Teacher Award – 1991, 1993
- AKA – Life Member

Barbara Dumas Marshall

Mrs. Barbara Dumas-Marshall was initiated into Theta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in 1998. She has served in many capacities since being initiated. One of her proudest moments was serving as chair of the public luncheon in 2002 for the South Eastern Conference of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. where over 2500 women were in attendance at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention Center in Biloxi. She is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi; graduate of PRO-Miss, a state leadership class through Mississippi State University; a graduate of The University of South Alabama in Mobile; a graduate of The John C. Stennis Institute of Government for Public Service at Mississippi State University; a graduate of Leadership Jackson County and she is the 2003 recipient of the School of Religious Studies Community Leader Award.

Barbara has past affiliations with Singing River Chapter of Professional Secretary International where she was a charter member, Business Technology Advisory Committee (Pascagoula High Vocational-Technical Center), Star of the Gulf Order of Eastern Star #141, Moss Point Active Citizens Board of Directors, Jackson County Eldercare Coalition, Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Community Advisory Committee for International Paper Company (former Moss Point Mill), Jackson County Democratic Federation of Women, Moss Point Chapter of NAACP and Southern Women in Public Service through The Stennis Center for Public Service. Barbara has also been very active in local politics where she has managed campaigns for candidates in both local and state races. She recently served as the Board of Directors' Chair for the Southeast Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross; served on the Community Advisory Panel for First Chemical Corporation - A DuPont Company, served on the board of directors for Rebuild Jackson County – a board that Governor Haley Barbour established to ensure that citizens who still needed assistance post Katrina, did not fall through the cracks and Barbara was appointed by the Moss Point Board of Aldermen to serve an unexpired term on the Moss Point School District Board of Trustees.

Barbara is an active member of First Missionary Baptist Church in Moss Point, where she has served on the Usher Board, Christian Education Committee, Audit Committee, Church Anniversary Committee, and Vacation Bible School Chair and has volunteered in various other capacities with the youth department. Currently Barbara is employed with the Jackson County Board of Supervisors as Director of the Jackson County Grant Department. She is now serving on the Pastor's Aide Auxiliary at First Missionary Baptist. Her current professional affiliations include: The American Society of Public Administrators, American Association of Grant Professionals, Blacks in Government, National Conference of Minority Public Administrators and Board of Directors for the Home of Grace of Jackson County. Barbara believes that "**THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH WORK FOR ALL OF US TO DO AND CERTAINLY THERE IS A ROLE FOR EACH OF US TO PLAY IN SERVING MANKIND**". Barbara is married to Ronnie Marshall. They have one daughter, Kristian Channing, Theta Zeta Omega's *Miss Teen AKA 2004*, and two sons, Bryan and Randy. The Marshalls reside in Moss Point.

Eloise Evans-Williams

Vitals:
Born: February 1 in Houston, MS
Parents: L. T. Evans (deceased) and Georgia Smith-Evans
Spouse: Clyde Williams

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Clusters, and Boules since initiation.
Served as Chapter Grammateus
Served as Membership Chairman
Served as Chapter Philacter
Chaired a Founders' Day Program
Served on the following chapter committees: Blood Drive, Health Committee, Sisterly Relations, Finance, Constitution, AKA Retreat, AKA Picnic, Calendar Girl Pageant, A Koastal Affair, Ivy & Pearl Affair, Boule Hospitality

Education:
Graduated Calhoun City High School, Calhoun City, MS
B.S. Degree from Mississippi Industrial College
Master's Degree from William Carey University
Matriculated at the University of Southern Mississippi in Supervision and Administration

Employment:
Harrison County Schools, Teacher, 1974-2008

Other Interesting Facts:

- AKA Woman of the Year – 1990
- Chairman of the Southeastern Regional Youth Activities
- Chairman of Feed My Sheep Initiative
- Regional Luncheon Committee Member
- Golden/Silver Soror Heritage Breakfast Committee
- Chapter Christmas Party Chairman
- Pan-Hellenic Council Representative
- Blood Drive Chairman
- Founders' Day Program Chairman
- Harrison County School District Teacher of the Year
- Owner – 28th Street Coin Laundry

Brenda Goldsmith

Vitals:
Born: November 18 in Burnt Corn, AL
Parents: James Rufus and Martha Tait Davison
Spouse: Roy Goldsmith, Sr.
Children:
One daughter – A'Branee Chera Goldsmith
One son - Roy Goldsmith, Jr.

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter, October 2006
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences and Mississippi Clusters
Chairman of Standards Committee
Chairman of Anniversary Committee

Education:
Carver High School, Pascagoula, MS
University of Southern Mississippi, B.S.
Capella University, MBA

Employment:
Ingalls Shipbuilding, June 1972 – June 2010

- Editing Specialist
- Word Processing Supervisor
- Program Management

Other Interesting Facts:
AKAettes Committee Member
Founders' Day Committee Member
Sisterly Relations Committee Member
Christmas Party Committee Member
Chapter Picnic Committee Member

Carolyn Elissa Hall-Jones

Mrs. Carolyn Elissa Hall-Jones is the daughter of Edna and Larry J. Rudolph of Moss Point, Ms. She has two brothers Larry Kinnard and Jaylen Rudolph. She is a 1992 top 10 graduate of Moss Point High School. From 1992-1994, she attended Jackson State University and later transferred to The University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL where she received a Bachelor's degree in Administrative Science with a concentration in Business and Communications. Carolyn was initiated in Epsilon Upsilon chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha in the Fall of 2001. She transferred membership to Theta Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha in 2002.

Since transferring to TZO, she has worked diligently with the AKAettes Leadership Development Program, AKAnomics Committee, and Fundraising Committee (where she brought the idea of The Ivy and Pearl Affair), Program Committee and Sisterly Relations Committee. She has served as the chapter's assistant treasurer. In March 2009, she received the Juanita Sims-Doty Entrepreneur of the Year award at the 77th South Eastern Regional Conference.

Carolyn is an aspiring entrepreneur; she is the owner and master stylist of The Hair Affair Salon and Spa downtown Moss Point. She was president of class 659 at Dudley Cosmetology University in Greensboro, NC and she has also graduated from Dudley's Leadership Training Academy in Kernersville, NC. Carolyn recently received a MBA (Masters In Business Administration) from William Carey University in Hattiesburg, MS and plans to pursue a doctoral degree. She is a member of Victory International Christian Ministries in Ocean Springs, MS. She enjoys mentoring and giving back to her community through her scholarship The C. E. Hall foundation, given annually to a deserving senior.

Tanya Haynes

Vitals:
Born: August 16 in Pascagoula, MS
Parents: Warnie Haynes Sr. (deceased) and Alcee Torrey Haynes

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter, October 1999
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences and Mississippi Clusters, and 1 Boule
Ivy Leaf Report
Parliamentarian (2013-2014)
Sisterly Relations Committee Chair

Education:
Moss Point High School – Graduated 1993
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College- Associate Degree - Graduated 1995
University Of Southern Mississippi – Bachelor of Science – Graduated 1997
University of South Alabama- Masters of Education- Graduated 2001

Employment:
Little Sisters of the Poor Mobile, AL
Director of Activities (2001- present)

Other Interesting Facts:
Membership Committee Member
Fundraiser Committee Member
Christmas Appreciation Dinner Committee Chair
Chapter Picnic Committee Chair
EYL Committee Member
Chapter Anniversary Committee Member

Kathrine Frederica Greene Jackson

Vitals:
Born: December 19 in Enterprise, MS
Parents: Baylous Jerome Greene (deceased) and Inez Berneice Greene
Spouse: Freddy Lee Jackson
Children – two daughters
- Edwina Inez Jackson Roland (AKA)
- Eleanor Deseree Jackson

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1978
Attended numerous South Eastern Regional Conferences, and Boules
Served on the Ivy and Pearl Affair Decorating Committee

Education:
Graduated Magnolia High School, Class of 57
B.A. Degree in Elementary Education from Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA
M.S. Degree in Elementary Education from Tennessee A&I State University, Nashville, TN

Employment:
Moss Point School System, Moss Point, MS
Teacher, 1961-2003

Other Interesting Facts:
- Taught music for grades 1 to 6 at two separate elementary schools
- Served as musician during Founders' Day Programs

Reflections of Soror Loretta Jennings:

She served as the Chapter's Centennial Founders' Day Committee Chair.

During my tenure as a member of Theta Zeta Omega, I have had the good fortune of serving on several committees including Founders' Day, Standards, Health, Fund Raiser, Parliamentarian, Scholarship and several others. Also I have in several leadership capacities including Anti Basileus, Anti-Tamiouchos and Anti-Grammateus. All of these positions enabled me to see a bigger picture of the vision adopted by the insightful founders for our organization and my involvement has allowed me to assist in implementing the tenants of their vision on the local level. Additionally my involvement has enabled me to develop friendships and relationships and to grow personally with other like-minded individuals over the years. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority embellishes the ideals and precepts that I grew up believing in and I am certain that I am better versed as a result of my involvement in the processes, programs of our chapter.

My fondest memory of my service to date has been serving as our Centennial Founders Day Committee Chair and Centennial Standards Day Committee Chair. The reason that our Centennial Founders Day Program resonated so powerful with me is because of what the day meant not only for our chapter but for our organization. It was a look back at our past, a focus on our present state and a look toward the future with other fraternal orders and Greek Brothers and Sisters available to share and witness our success and celebration.

Loretta Jennings

Vitals:
Born: July 6 in Pensacola, FL
Parents: James Young (deceased) and Bertha L. Burns
Spouse: .Robert Wallace Jennings
Children - One daughter: Sonya Falecia White (AKA)

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1984
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences since initiation.
Positions held in chapter includes Anti-Basileus, Anti-Grammateus, Standards Committee Chairman, Health Committee Chairman, and Founders' Day Committee Chairman

Education:
Graduated Union High School, Monroeville, AL
B.S. Degree from Stillman College, M.S. Degree from University of Southern MS

Employment:
Loretta Jennings State Farm Insurance Agency
Previously employed at Ingalls Shipbuilding Company

Other Interesting Facts:
- Chapter Centennial Standards Committee Chairman
- Chapter Centennial Founders' Day Committee Chairman
- AKA Woman of the Year

LaShea Carter McWhorter

Vitals:
Born: February 22 in Mobile, AL
Parents: Aubrey Williams and Ruthie Williams-Crittenden (deceased)
Spouse: Paul McWhorter
Children:
One daughter – Ta'Keria Carter
Two sons:
Glenn Carter
Donterio Carter

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in October 2008

Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences and Mississippi Clusters
Chairman of Awards Committee

Education:
Graduated Baker High School, Mobile, AL
Faulkner University, Bachelor of Business Administration
William Carey University, Masters of Business Administration

Employment:
Jackson County Board of Supervisors, Human Resources Generalist
Carter Financial Strategies, LLC – Director/Senior Consultant

Other Interesting Facts:
- Served on the Health Committee, Awards Committee, and The Ivy and Pearl Committee

Reflections of Soror Evelyn Millender:

She has served in a number of different officer positions in the chapter.

I served as chapter grammateus for two consecutive terms, and thoroughly enjoyed fulfilling that office. Under the administration of Soror Alice Emmanuel, I initiated the mailing of a computer generated hard copy of monthly meetings to sorors so each would have one before monthly meetings. Files were maintained on floppy disks.

I also served as Founders' Day Chairperson and worked on several committees where I served as chairman of sub-committees on several of those. But none was more challenging and rewarding than serving as chapter Hodegos.

During my tenure, I initiated a different format of how we would celebrate birthdays during our regular monthly meetings. I wanted to be an active source of our Going Green Initiative, therefore, I chose to extend my technical skills, and I must say, I surprised myself.

I developed a ***BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION POWER POINT PRESENTATION*** spotlighting each soror celebrating during the month. I do believe that sorors enjoyed seeing themselves being presented in that manner. As the power point was being presented, it was done to the tune of Stevie Wonder's *"Happy Birthday to You."* It was an exciting and joyful experience. One large birthday gift was given each month by lottery pull. Sorors had to be present to win the gift. And each month there was the anticipation as to who would be the lucky soror. I also initiated door prize give-a-ways.

During the Anniversary presentation, a selected anniversary song was being played and gift bags of Hershey's Hugs and Kisses were given to each celebrant to share with her sweetheart when she returned home. This was a joy to me. It was a challenge. Our chapter had grown in size so the challenge was to be able to keep up and stay on task. Also by lottery pull, a soror's name was pulled to be the recipient of the door prize of the month. You had to be present to win.

As Hodegos, you are the official hostess. You had to be innovative, loyal, enthusiastic, sisterly and understanding. You had to be pleasant, congenial, cordial and friendly. It also helped to be entertaining, which is one reason for creating the power point. I took pride in and joyfully recognized marriages, births, retirements and promotions; by sending cards and flowers when there was a need. Although it was a sad occasion, I took part in one Ivy Beyond the Wall ceremony.

I would love to have held this office another term, however, I could not successfully and efficiently fulfill the duties and responsibilities adequately due to extensive traveling and wanting to enjoy my grand-children as much as I could during my retirement years.

I thank Theta Zeta Omega for the opportunity.

Evelyn Thomas Millender

Vitals:
Born: August 13 in Sylacauga, AL
Parents: Fletcher Thomas, Sr. and Rosia Lee Thomas (both deceased)
Spouse: Robert James Millender
Children:
- One son: Terrance J. Millender
- One daughter: Karen E. Millender (AKA)

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1986
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Clusters, Boules, and Leadership Conferences since initiation.

Served as Chapter Grammateus 1988-1992
Served as Chapter Hodegos 2008-2012

Education:
Graduated East Highland High School, Sylacauga, AL
B.S. Degree from Tuskegee Institute (Now Tuskegee University)
Completed further studies at the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State University

Employment:
Mississippi Extension Service – Nutritionist (1970-1972)

Mississippi Employment Agency – Clerk and test administrator (1972-1974)

Jackson County School District – Classroom Teacher (1974-1980)

Moss Point School District – Classroom Teacher, Single Parenting Coordinator (1980-2001)

Other Interesting Facts:
- Chairperson Sisterly Relations – (2008-2012)
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Earned Recognitions:
- Silver Star – Regional Conference 2011 – Birmingham, AL
- Lifetime Membership (Received March, 2012)
- Chairperson Scrapbook History Committee – four consecutive years (Maintain Chapter Scrapbook and History).
- Co-chaired Calendar Girl Pageant
- Chairperson: Founders' Day (2011)
- Chairperson: Chapter Founders Day Luncheon (2012)
- Chairperson: Signs and Banners – Southeastern Regional Conference, Biloxi, MS
- Worked on several committees, Calendar Girl Pageant, Miss Teen AKA, TIPA, Founders Day
- Various teacher and administrative awards (Outstanding Vocational Educator Award – Administrator's Outstanding Teacher Award (three years).

Dr. Betty M. Merhundrew

Dr. Merhundrew is a native of Aberdeen, MS and was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority in 2003. She has a great passion for public education, and has served as a professional educator for the past twenty years. She has served as a kindergarten, fifth, six and gifted and talented teacher in the public school system.

Dr. Merhundrew is presently employed with the Ocean Springs School District and serves as the gifted coordinator psychometrist for the district. She earned an Associate of Science Degree in early childhood education from Itawamba Community College in Fulton MS, and her Bachelor's in elementary education and Masters in gifted education from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, MS. Dr. Merhundrew continued her education and received her AA certification in School Psychometry from William Carey University, and her Specialist and Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership from The University of Southern Mississippi.

She is a member of Mississippi Professional Educators, Gulf Coast Association of Gifted Teachers (Local Association), and serves on the Executive Board of the Mississippi Association of Gifted Children (MAGC). Dr. Merhundrew is a Partner of Hope for St. Jude Children Research Hospital. She is an active member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Hansboro in Gulfport MS where she serves as the Director of Christian Education.

Barbara Hughes Monroe

Vitals:
Born: August 2 in Clarksdale, MS
Parents: Ruby Brown Hughes and Dewitt Moses Hughes (both deceased)
Children: Two sons:
Christopher Curtis Monroe
Carter Fitzgerald Smith

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 2006

Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Clusters, and Boule since initiation.
Serves as Chapter Anti-Pecunious Grammateus

Education:
Graduated Coachoma Agriculture High School, Clarksdale, MS
B.S. and M.S. Degrees from Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Employment:
Rankin County School District – Richland Upper Elementary, 1990 – Present
Harrison County School District – Orange Grove Elementary, 1987 – 1990
Hancock County School District – Hancock North Central, 1984 - 1987

Other Interesting Facts:
- Served as Chairperson for the First Ivy and Pearl Affair in 2008
- Served on numerous chapter committees including Membership, Picnic, Standards, Feed-My-Sheep, Anniversary Luncheon, A Koastal Affair, Saving Our Sisters, Sisterly Relations, And Chapter Retreat
- 2013 Chairman, Chapter Christmas Party

Bridgette W. Parks

Bridgette W. Parks is the daughter of Bernadette Warrick and the eldest of two siblings, Carl and Ariel Warrick. She is the proud mother of Alexis (14) and Caleb (7). She is a graduate of Alcorn State University with a B.S. in Biology and the University of Mississippi Medical Center with B.S. in Cytotechnology.

Bridgette was a registered cytotechnologist at Providence Hospital, Mobile, AL, before joining the faculty at Virginia College in Biloxi, MS. She is now pursuing her MBA at Belhaven University. She is an active member of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, D'Iberville, MS under the leadership of Rev. Kenneth M. Davis. She is a member of the NAACP.

Bridgette joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Gamma Phi Chapter in the spring of 1992 while at Alcorn during which she served as the chapter hostess. She joined Theta Zeta Omega in 2010, immediately becoming involved. She has served as the Decorations Chairperson for The Ivy & Pearl Affair 2012 and Co-Chairperson for A Koastal Affair 2012. She now serves as the Membership Chairperson, Assistant Financial Secretary and Co-Chairperson of the AKAettes.

As a valued member of Theta Zeta Omega she works diligently on several committees to include Sisterly Relations, Emerging Young Leaders, Communications, Programs, Finance, Protocol and Connections. She is committed to the Sorority's motto, "service to all mankind."

Avonne L. Polk

Vitals:
Born: April 5 in Boston, MA
Parents: Levi L. Lawson and Lottie B. Morgan
Spouse: Rodney D. Polk, Sr.
Children:

- One son: Rodney D. Polk, Jr.
- Two daughters:
  - Rodneeka Danielle Polk (AKA)
  - Aignér D. Wiggins

AKA Feats:
Initiated at Spelman College in 1978
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Boules, and Leadership Conferences since initiation.
Served as Ivy Leaf Reporter
Served as Chapter Historian

Education:
Graduated Moss Point High School, Moss Point, MS
B.A. Degree in History/Pre Law from Spelman College
M.A. Degree in Counseling from University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL
Attended the University of Southern Mississippi

Employment:
Moss Point School District School Counselor, 2000-present

Other Interesting Facts:

- Co-Chair, Ivy & Pearl Ball
- Chair, Souvenirs Committee for 2000 Regional Conference, Biloxi, MS
- Member, Ivy Foundation
- Winner, Ivy Wreath Award

Dr. Sonya White Porter

The Lady Ivy for the Evening was Dr. Sonya White Porter of Mobile, AL. Sonya White-Porter is a Cosmetic Dentist with practices in Mobile, AL and Moss Point Mississippi. She is and has been a member of the Academy of General Dentistry, the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, the American Dental Association, the Mississippi Dental Association, the Alabama Dental Association, the American Orthodontic Society and the Mississippi Association of Women Dentists. She is an Alumnus of the prestigious Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies, a world-renowned center for cosmetic and neuromuscular dentistry, elevating her to be among the top 2% of dentists nationwide who have undergone this extensive program. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Mathematics from Xavier University of Louisiana and she holds a Doctor of Dental Surgery from Howard University, Washington DC.

Dr. White has established the Azalea Imaging Center. This imaging center boasts of being the home of the Galileos 3D cone beam machine used for capturing 3d imaging x-rays for referring dentists and physicians. The technology is used to help place dental implants and diagnose numerous health conditions including sleep apnea and tumors of the head and neck.

Dr. Sonya White is a staunch promoter of healthy oral hygiene care and recently spent a summer weekend volunteering with the Mission of Mercy held in Jackson, Mississippi seeing patients who are unable to pay for dental care. She also volunteers her services to local elementary schools in the Mobile area and various clinics in the Moss Point area when requested. She enjoys playing tennis during her down time and as an avid reader, she shares her love of books by reading once a week to the students at Mary B. Austin Elementary School in Mobile, AL.

She lives in Mobile, AL with her husband Darryl Porter and triplet sons, Robert, Ryan and Ross. She is a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Mobile, AL, a member of Theta Zeta Omega of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and numerous other civic and social organizations.

Gennie Smith

Vitals:
Born: March 27 in Booneville, MS
Parents: James and Johnnie Eckford (both deceased)
Spouse: Herman Smith
Children - One daughter
- Dr. Taniya Smith (AKA)

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Epsilon Pi Chapter in 1972
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Boules, and Clusters since initiation.
Serves on the MIP Committee
Serves on the Sisterly Relations Committee

Education:
Graduated Thrasher High School, Booneville, MS
B.S. Degree in Sociology from Mississippi Valley State University

Employment:
Jackson Pierce Inc. Outreach and Admissions Counselor

Other Interesting Facts:
- Co-Chair Ivy & Pearl Ball, 2010
- Chair, Family Reunion Picnic, 2006, 2007 & 2013
- Chair Ivy & Pearl Decorations Committee, 2010 & 2013

Taniya Lamika Smith

Vitals:
Born: June 16 in Biloxi, MS
Parents: Hermon and Gennie Vee Smith (AKA)

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 2008
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences and Mississippi Clusters since initiation.
Serves on the Sisterly Relations Committee
Serves on the Health Committee

Education:
Graduated Mercy Cross High School, Biloxi, MS
Xavier University of Louisiana, Bachelor of Science in Biology/Premed
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
University of South Alabama Family Medicine Residency Program

Employment:
Franklin Primary Health Center, Physician, September 2008-January 2009
American Family Care, Physician, January 2009-December 2010
Coastal Family Health Center, Physician, January 2011-August 2013
William Carey College of Osteopathic Medicine, Preceptor, December 2012-June 2013
South Alabama Medical Clinic, Physician, October 2013-current

Other Interesting Facts:
- Sisterly Relations Committee member
- Health Committee member
- Picnic Committee member
- Decoration Committee member for Ivy & Pearl Affair
- Hostess Committee member for Ivy & Pearl Affair
- Chapter Anniversary Program
- Decoration for Founders Day Program
- Decoration for A Coastal Affair
- National Medical Association member
- Alabama Academy of Family Physicians member
- American Academy of Family Physicians member

Candy Davison Stokes

Vitals:
Born: February 14 in Pascagoula, MS
Parents: James Rufus (deceased) and Martha Tait Davison
Spouse: Donald Stokes
Children – Two sons
Donald J. Stokes
Davison J. Stokes

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter, October 2008
Attended several Mississippi Clusters

Education:
Pascagoula High School, Pascagoula, MS
AA Degree, MS Gulf Coast Community College
B.S. Degree, University of Southern Mississippi
M. Ed. Degree, University of Southern Mississippi

Employment:
Pascagoula School District, teacher, 2000-2007
Ocean Springs School District, teacher, 2007-present

Cathy F. Wells

Vitals:
Born: April 27 in Pascagoula, MS
Parents: Charles F. Wells (deceased) and Emma W. Wells (AKA)
Children - One daughter
- Keisha Lynn Wells

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Theta Zeta Omega Chapter in 1982
Attended several South Eastern Regional Conferences, Clusters, and a Boule held in the Washington, DC

Education:
Graduated Magnolia High School, Moss Point, MS
B.A. Degree from Dillard University in 1971
M.A.T. Degree from Tulane University in 1975
M.S. Degree from Loyola University in 1984

Employment:
New Orleans Public Schools Teacher - September 1971 - May 1975; September 1976 - December 2005
Dillard University Instructor - September 1975 - August 1976
Southern University, New Orleans, Evening Division Instructor - January 1976 - August 1986
Loyola University Upward Bound - September 1980 - August 2005
Resurrection Catholic Schools - January 2006 - December 2006
Moss Point School District - October 2007- June 2009

Other Interesting Facts:
- Teacher of the Year – Warren Easton High School, New Orleans, LA
- Association Matron – Star of Zion Chapter, Order of Eastern Star
- Matron – Star of Zion Chapter, Order of Eastern Star

Jacquelyn D. Warren-Williams

Vitals:
Born: November 20 in San Diego, CA
Parents: James D. Warren, Sr. (deceased) and Burnadean Wyre Warren (AKA Golden Soror)
Spouse: Carl L. Williams, III
Children
One daughter – Kiersten J. Peltier (AKA)
Two sons – Christian J. Peltier and Carl L. Williams, IV

AKA Feats:
Initiated in Tau Iota Omega Chapter in 1995
Has attended a South Eastern Regional Conference and a South Central Regional Conference
Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Audit Committee Chair (2010-2011)
Theta Zeta Omega Chapter Tamiouchos (2013-2014)

Education:
Graduated Hammond High School, Hammond, LA
B.S. Degree in Accounting, Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA
MBA, Grambling State University

Employment:
Edward Jones, Financial Advisor, July 2013 – present
Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc., SOX Compliance Manager, 2002-2012
Arthur Andersen, Auditor, 1998-2001
Argosy Gaming, 1997-1998
Wybirk & Associates, 1992-1997

Other Interesting Facts:
Licensed Broker/Financial Advisor
All-State Choir, LA, 1982
State Basketball Champion, 1983
Southeastern Louisiana University Lab School Girls Basketball Coach, 1984
Miss Tangipahoa Black Festival, 1985

CHAPTER HONORS AND AWARDS

ESP-Centennial Program Achievement Award for Excellence in Implementing The Economic Growth of the Black Family Platform. The two Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Theta Zeta Omega and Upsilon Chi Omega, received the ESP-Centennial Program Achievement Award for Excellence in Implementing The Economic Growth of the Black Family Platform for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Habitat for Humanity Project that built a home for the Willis Family in Gulfport. The award was presented by Supreme Basileus, Dr. Barbara A. McKinzie at the 2008 Boule held in Washington, DC. Sorors from the South Eastern Region (Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee) volunteered during the summer of 2007 to help construct the home. The house was sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Members of the Directorate and former supreme Basilei attended the dedication of the home on July 17, 2007.

Appreciation Award from Jackson County Sickle Cell Association. In April 2008, the Jackson County Sickle Cell Association recognized Theta Zeta Omega for its faithful contribution to the Sickle Cell Association over the past five years. Theta Zeta Omega has consistently participated in an annual fundraiser, The Sickle Cell Tea, every year since its inception.

Sorors of the Day. Theta Zeta Omega is the only chapter in the South Eastern Region which has two "Soror of the Day" honors. Soror Stephanie Barnes Taylor was the first recipient of this designation bestowed by Soror Juanita Sims Doty. Soror Barbara Thomas received this designation during the Regional Luncheon at Boule 2008.

Donnyss Cotton Rucker - Clasped Hands Award. The Chapter received this award for the greatest percentage increase in membership because of the transfer of undergraduates at the 76th South Eastern Regional Conference in Montgomery, Alabama in 2008.

Esther Rigsby - Membership Chairman Award. The chapter is proud of Soror Theresa Haynes, Membership Chairman, for winning the Esther Rigsby-Membership Chairman Award at the 77th South Eastern Regional Conference in Mobile, Alabama in 2009.

Juanita Sims Doty - Entrepreneur Award. The chapter is also proud of Soror Carolyn Hall-Jones for winning the Juanita Sims Doty Entrepreneur Award in recognition of her outstanding achievements as an entrepreneur and philanthropist at the 77th South Eastern Regional Conference in Mobile, Alabama in 2009.

Johnella H. Martin - NAACP Award. The chapter received the award for making the largest donation to the NAACP since the last regional conference at the 78th South Eastern Regional Conference in Jackson, Mississippi.

New Programs Implemented During 2007 - 2010. The chapter began its affiliation with W.I.N.N.E.R.S., an organization focused on helping women overcome challenges in 2008. This program was initiated to give the chapter an avenue to help other women have a better start after recovering from challenges caused by drug addiction, imprisonment, and abuse.

Salvation Army Award. Theta Zeta Omega was recognized by the Harrison County Salvation Army as one of the top fund raisers for the 2010 Bell Ringer Campaign.

NAACP Award. The following sorors received the Gulfport NAACP Medgar and Myrlie Evers Ambassador Award for outstanding accomplishments in October, 2013: Norma Graham, Wattine Hannah, Tamara Harper, Carolyn Rushing, Stephanie Barnes Taylor and Barbara J. Thomas.

A listing of other National, South Eastern Region, and Community awards received by the Chapter is provided in Appendix 2.

CHAPTER VISIBILITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Our chapter's visibility in the community has increased through additional chapter programs conducted across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Our chapter has been featured on WLOX, the local news channel, and the Addie Brent Show, a local television show. Chapter members have made appearances to publicize upcoming chapter events and highlight chapter service projects. The chapter has also experienced increased publication of articles in local newspapers about our chapter events and programs. The media is invited to local chapter events to provide coverage. The chapter has been featured in *Beach Boulevard* and *South Mississippi Living*, two Gulf Coast Magazines. Our website adds additional visibility as well. Our programs are prominently featured. Additionally, every opportunity is taken to publicize the wonderful works of Alpha Kappa Alpha in any community events where a chapter member serves as speaker or participant.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 2013 Membership Roster

Appendix 2 Listing of Chapter Awards

Appendix 3 Chapter Foundation

Appendix 4 Regional Appointments

Appendix 1

2013 Membership Roster

Soror Name	Soror Status	Years of Service	Initiation Month & Year	Chapter of Initiation
Alsgood, Dianne	Silver/Legacy	37	Mar-76	Lambda Omicron, University of South Eastern Loiusiana, Hammond, LA
Alsgood, Lauren	Legacy	5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
Batiste, Tenesha		9	May-04	Gamma Omicron, Tougaloo College
Bush, Anika	Legacy	5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
Bush, Margaret	Silver/Life/Legacy	37	Apr-74	Gamma Rho, Jackson State University
Campbell, Angela		5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
Caples, Courtney	Legacy	5	Apr-08	Iota Kappa, University of Southern Mississippi
Caples, Norma	Charter Member/Golden/Life/ Legacy	63	1950	Gamma Omicron, Tougaloo College
Carter, Shunda		5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
Coleman, Marion		8	Jun-05	Theta Zeta Omega
Coleman, Patricia	Silver/Legacy	29	Dec-84	Nu Sigma Omega
Criddell, Katie	Silver	46	Apr-68	Gamma Phi, Alcorn State University
Davis, Andrea		5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
Davis, Teyona		5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
DeShields, Inez	Silver/Life/Legacy	27	May-86	Theta Zeta Omega
Goldsmith, Brenda		7	2006	Theta Zeta Omega
Graham, Norma	Charter Member/Golder	55	1950	Gamma Phi, Alcorn State University
Hall, Patricia	Silver/Life	27	May-86	Theta Zeta Omega
Hannah, Wattine	Silver	39	1974	Theta Zeta Omega
Harris, Portia	Silver	27	1986	Theta Zeta Omega
Haynes, Tanya		14	1999	Theta Zeta Omega
Haynes, Theresa		17	1996	Theta Zeta Omega
Irvin, Barbara	Silver/Life	43	1970	Epsilon Upsilon, University of South Alabama
Jackson, Alchar		16	Dec-97	Kappa Chi, Auburn University
Jackson, Katherine	Silver/Life	36	1978	Theta Zeta Omega
Jaynes, Angela		9	2004	Gamma Rho, Jackson State University
Jennings, Carolyn	Silver/Life	32	Apr-81	Theta Sigma Omega
Jennings, Loretta	Silver/Life/Legacy	28	Feb-85	Theta Zeta Omega
Jones, Carolyn		12	2001	Epsilon Upsilon, University of South Alabama
Kerr, Luward		15	Apr-98	Theta Zeta Omega
Knight, Shunda		20	1993	Iota Kappa, University of Southern Mississippi

Appendix 1

2013 Membership Roster

Soror Name	Soror Status	Years of Service	Initiation Month & Year	Chapter of Initiation
Lewis, Willie Mae	Silver	28	Jan-85	Theta Zeta Omega
Magee, Angela		5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
Marshall, Barbara Dumas		15	Apr-98	Theta Zeta Omega
Marshall, Glenda	Silver/Life	47	1966	Gamma Phi, Alcorn State University
Martin, Wendolyn		5	Nov-09	Iota Kappa, University of Southern Mississippi
Mason, Catherine	Silver/Life/Legacy	43	Nov-70	Gamma Omicron, Tougaloo College
May, Viria	Silver	25	Oct-88	Theta Zeta Omega
McCovery, Edith	Silver/Life/Legacy	27	May-86	Theta Zeta Omega
Merhundrew, Betty		10	Jun-03	Upsilon Chi Omega
Millender, Evelyn	Silver/Life/Legacy	27	May-86	Theta Zeta Omega
Monroe, Barbara		7	Oct-06	Theta Zeta Omega
Parks, Bridgette		21	May-92	Gamma Phi, Alcorn State University
Payton, LeJeuna		5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
Peltier, Kiersten	Legacy	5	Apr-08	Iota Kappa, University of Southern Mississippi
Polk, Avonne	Silver/Legacy	35	1978	Spelman College
Roland, Edwina	Legacy	7	2006	Theta Zeta Omega
Rushing, Carolyn	Silver/Life	35	1978	Theta Zeta Omega
Smith, Gennie	Silver/Legacy	41	Dec-72	Epsilon Pi, MS Valley State
Smith, Taniya	Legacy	5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
Stallworth, Hope		8	2005	Theta Zeta Omega
Stokes, Candy		5	Oct-08	Theta Zeta Omega
Taylor, Schermonique		10	Jun-03	Theta Zeta Omega
Taylor, Stephanie Barnes		22	Apr-91	Lambda Eta, Mississippi State University
Thomas, Barbara		17	Apr-96	Theta Zeta Omega
Torrey- Stewart, Shylonda		14	1999	Theta Zeta Omega
Walden, JaLeasa		4	2010	Gamma Omicron, Tougaloo
Walters, Carmen		31	1982	Zeta Theta, Southern University, New Orleans, LA
Warren-Williams, Jackie	Legacy	18	1995	Tau Iota Omega
Washington, Bonnie		10	Jun-03	Theta Zeta Omega
Wells, Cathy	Silver/Legacy	31	1982	Theta Zeta Omega
Wells, Emma	Silver/Legacy	39	1974	Theta Zeta Omega
White-Porter, Sonya	Legacy	15	Apr-98	Theta Zeta Omega
Williams, Eloise	Silver	25	1988	Theta Zeta Omega

Appendix 2

Listing of Chapter Awards

National Awards

EAF Award – Richman, VA	July 8,, 1990
EAF Award	July 5, 1990
1990-92 Programs- Addressing the Crises of the 1990's	July 1992
ESP Centennial Program Achievement Award	July 13, 2008

South Eastern Regional Awards

Certificate of Appreciation –Making the Net Work	March 25, 1995
Standards Report Efficiency	April 12, 1995
Donnyss Cotton Rucker – Clasped Hands Award – Montgomery, AL	March 15, 2008
77th South Eastern Regional Host Chapter – Biloxi, MS	March 14, 2009

Community Awards

Gulf Coast Community Action Agency, Inc. –Meritorious Community Services	November 28, 1995
Jackson County Association of Sickle Cell Disease, Inc. –Second Place	May 20, 2000
Jackson County Association of Sickle Cell Disease, Inc. – Highest Attendance	2001
Mississippi Gulf Coast Pan Hellenic Scholarship Chairman- Hilda Montgomery	May, 19, 2002
First Baptist Church –Senior Citizen Award	November 2002
Jackson County Association of Sickle Cell Disease, Inc. – Second Place	June 6, 2003
Jackson County Association of Sickle Cell Disease, Inc. – Highest Attendance	May 29, 2004
Moss Point High School – Booster Award	May 19, 2005
City of Biloxi Proclamation	September 28, 2007
Volunteer Service – Kreole Elementary School	2007-2008
Volunteer Service – Kreole Elementary School	2009
NAACP Award – Life Member	August 2009
Salvation Army Bell Ringer Fund Raiser Award	2010
Jackson County Proclamation – 2012 Founders Day	January 9, 2012

Appendix 3

Chapter Foundation

Name of the Chapter's Foundation
TZO Ivy Foundation, Inc.

Date of Chapter's Foundation Incorporation
November 19, 2007

Foundation Activities
A Koastal Affair- Benefitting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) - October 2013

Appendix 4

Regional Appointments

Members Who Have Served on International Committees with Dates of Service

Stephanie Barnes Taylor	October 2007-July 2010

Members Who Have Chaired Regional Conference Committees with Dates

Margaret Bush	HBCU Gospel Brunch	March 2009
Margaret Bush	Grammateus	March 1992
Barbara Irvin	Pecunious Grammateus	March 1992
Barbara Irvin	Logistics Chairman	March 2000
Stephanie Barnes Taylor	Operations Chairman	March 2009

Members Who Have Chaired Regional Conferences with Dates

Margaret Bush	68th Regional Conference Biloxi, Mississippi	March 9-12, 2000

Present or Former Cluster Coordinators

Norma Caples	Cluster V	1977-1980
Margaret Bush	Cluster V	1989-1990
Barbara Irvin	Cluster V	1999-2000
Linda Simmons	Cluster V	1998-1999

REFERENCES

This book is a compilation of chapter member profiles and reflections. In addition to the selected references that follow, readers may consult Theta Zeta Omega Chapter minutes and annual reports to the South Eastern Region and AKA International Office. These collections are available by contacting the author or Basileus of the Chapter.

History of the Mississippi Gulf Coast:

Biloxi Harrison County Library, History and Genealogy Section

Pascagoula, MS, Huntington Ingalls Industries, http://www.huntingtoningalls.com/

Four Centuries on the Pascagoula, Vol. II, History and Genealogy

Gulfport, MS, Dan Ellis Home Page, http://www.danellis.net/gulfport___harrison_county.htm

Gulfport, MS, Mississippi Gulf Coast Home page, http://www.gulfcoast.org/history/

Courtesy, Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce

Biloxi, by Jamie Bounds Ellis and Jane B. Shambra, ISBN 978-0-7385-6778-5, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2009

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